Sandwell CHRONICLE

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22 YEARS JAIL FOR POLICE PREDATOR WHO 'SHOWED NO REMORSE'

Allan Richards

A PAEDOPHILE policeman who abused his position to sexually exploit boys over four decades has been jailed for 22 years.

Allan Richards, who was also a Scoutmaster, was said to pose a 'continuing significant risk of serious harm to the public' by Judge Francis Laird QC as he was sentenced for 40 convictions against 23 boys – including rape and indecent assault dating back to the 1970s.

He must serve nearly 13 years behind bars at least before being considered for release. Once freed he faces being on licence for the remainder of his 22-year sentence plus five more years on top of that. The former West Midlands detective showed no sign of emotion as he stood in the dock at Birmingham Crown Court in front of some of his victims who wept as his jail term was announced. It is abundantly clear to me you have been a predator the whole of your adult life," said Judge Laird.

Computer

"It is clear your actions have had a damaging effect. I have observed you and you have shown no remorse. I have no doubt if given the chance that you would continue to commit offences against boys. You were entrusted with the welfare of children and the vulnerable. You simply exploited that trust for your own sexual gratification." Over two trials, Birmingham Crown Court was told the defendant, now 54, sexually abused boys at police stations, at Scout camps, in swimming pools, in a park, at his home, and other locations that cannot be disclosed.

Some of his victims were from troubled backgrounds and already victims of sexual offences. During a search of his home in Thaxted Road, Tile Cross, Birmingham, detectives found a list of 35 male names Richards had a 'sexual interest' in. Checks also showed he used the force computer to 'keep tabs' on his victims. It is believed there are more victims police have been unable to trace. He escaped prosecution in 2000 and 2004 following complaints to police but both times no action was taken. He went on to abuse six more victims.

Miss Miranda Moore QC, for the prosecution, said: "It was a deliberate abuse of his position as a police officer to facilitate offending and prevent reporting – a number of the young boys said he told them no-one would believe them."

Richards was ordered to pay £60,000 court costs and banned from contact with children and entering swimming pools. He will remain on the sexual offenders register for life. He denied all 56 charges against him and has launched an appeal.

Council calls for ROSPA review after complaints

SAFETY PROBE ON BONFIRE CROWDS

AN independent safety report is being carried out following complaints from the public about Sandwell Council's bonfire and fireworks event at Dartmouth Park on Saturday night.

Councillor Richard Marshall, cabinet member for leisure, said: "We need to address what went wrong and then we need to look at what we do to make sure this doesn't happen again. We had unprecedented numbers of people coming to our event and there was an issue with crowd control.

"While there were no reported injuries on the night, public safety is always our priority and so we are asking for an independent ROSPA safety review. The review will look at the planning and delivery of our bonfire night event to make sure we don't have repeat of Saturday night's crowd problems again."

The move followed an announcement by council bosses, when they promised to 'learn lessons' after hundreds of people complained about long queues to get into the event. Families were left furious at long delays to get into the park for the borough's biggest fireworks display, with some queueing for more than an hour.

Overwhelmed

Sandwell Council apologised for the chaos and said changes would be made.

A 'de-briefing' took place on Monday morning to discuss what led to the delays.

Councillor Marshall said staff were overwhelmed by higher-than-expected numbers as more than 15,000 people descended on the park. He said making the display a pre-ticket event next year, which would mean no paying on the gate, was being considered. The authority decided to axe its

Report by Richard Guttridge

Tipton fireworks display this year, reducing the number of events in the borough to two and Councillor Marshall admitted that may have had an impact. Organisation for the event was labelled a 'farce' and a 'shambles' by disgruntled visitors on Facebook.

It is the latest headache the council has faced over its fireworks displays. An event was shifted from Brunswick Park in Wednesbury after a stray rocket flew into the crowd in 2014, injuring three people.

Councillor Marshall said: "By the looks of it, numbers increased due to Walsall Arboretum shutting early and Birmingham not having a main bonfire weekend. On top of that, there were five pay points but people were just queueing at the one."

Angry visitors weighed in with criticism on social media following the fireworks display on Saturday. Reishna Begum posted: "My five-year-old daughter and I queued for over an hour. By the time we got in we had missed the Frozen characters that my daughter was so looking forward to seeing."

Stella Stone said: "Queues were a joke. Little kids freezing and people queued for hours."

Blast off for town youth club

Ben Moule, Adam Murphy, Blake Smith, Ashley Wright and Holly Johnson at the launch of the new youth club

A new youth club has been launched in Wednesbury with community leaders hailing the impact it will have for young people.

The youth club, called 'BLAST', will operate from within the Wednesbury Sports Union and Cricket Club every Wednesday. It took around 12 months to plan by community leaders and will be funded by a £15,000 budget from Sandwell Council.

Wednesbury North councillor Elaine Costigan said: "The new youth club is absolutely marvellous. It is great for the kids and will give them something to look forward to each week." The idea for the youth club came from the three ward councillors of Wednesbury North, who decided one was needed after the town was lacking such a club. It is located on Wood Green Road. There are now 33 youngsters who have signed up, Councillor Costigan added.

The council money for the youth club will help fund equipment and activities for the youngsters to take part in, such as going on trips.

A competition was launched by the youth club for children to pick the official name. The name BLAST was narrowed down from 20 entries, and the winner received £20 as a prize. It stands for 'Building Lives Around Sound Truth.' It runs every Wednesday from 6.30pm to 8.30pm.

COMMERCE

Business boosting bus all set to roll in

BIRMINGHAM'S Jewellery Quarter plays host to the Small Business Saturday tour bus this weekend.

This particular stop is the only one in the Midlands. The bus tours the UK, putting on a number of activities and workshops, as well as exhibiting some of the small businesses in the local area, in order to raise awareness for the main event in December.

As part of its 29-stop tour of the country, the Small Business Saturday bus will be parking up on the Golden Square in Vyse Street between 10am and 2pm.

Luke Crane, manager of the Jewellery Quarter BID, said: "We're delighted to be welcoming the Small Business Saturday bus to the Jewellery Quarter this year."

PLANNING

Housing on the cards at car park

REDEVELOPMENT plans for a car park opposite an arson-hit former Sandwell College building have moved a step closer after the scheme was backed by planning officers.

The car park in Crocketts Lane is no longer used and council bosses are keen to have the site redeveloped. Council leader Steve Eling has said the land is 'ideal for housing'.

Councillors on the planning committee were last night, Wednesday, advised to approve the application.

DIVERSIONS

One-way system set for commuter route

A BUSY Tipton commuter road will be made one-way for two weeks from today (Thursday).

Dudley Road will see the system in place on weekdays until November 23. Diversions will be in place via Sedgley Road West, Sedgley Road and Birmingham New Road.

Work on the Birmingham New Road, at its junction with Shaw Road, Coseley, began on August 1 and is due to last until next spring, causing major delays.

Lane restrictions are currently in place during off-peak hours of 9.30am to 3.30pm, Monday to Friday.

INSIDE

CHARLEY'S CHARITY CHOP

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Service at an end for dinner lady

Head Phillip Butcher, Margaret Whitehouse, Councillor Simon Hackett and Margaret's husband Robert

A DINNER lady has retired after supervising nearly 5,000 lunch times at The Priory Primary in Friar Park.

Her services to the school were honoured in a special assembly where she was presented with flowers and thanked by the children and staff.

Margaret has served the Wednesbury primary school for more than 26 years as a lunch time supervisor.

Headteacher of The Priory Primary School, Phillip Butcher said: "I want to thank Margaret for her loyalty and service to the school and I wish her all the best in her retirement.

"Margaret has devoted herself to the children of the school over the years and both them and the staff here will really miss her. Lunch times just won't be the same without her but she will now have more time to spend with her husband, children and grandchildren."

Councillor Simon Hackett, cabinet member for children's services for Sandwell Council said: "It's incredible to think Margaret has been a loyal employee of this school since 1990. Her first pupils will be well into their 30s now and I'm sure all former pupils since then will remember Mrs Whitehouse.

"She has clearly been an asset to The Priory Primary and I want to wish her all the best in her well-deserved retirement."

I can't do the mud run – I'm pregnant

THE organiser of a muddy obstacle course challenge by a team of West Bromwich ambulance staff had a good reason for not making the starting line-up – she discovered she was pregnant.

Paramedic Lisa West helped put together a 21-strong team of colleagues from West Bromwich ambulance station and two nurses from Sandwell General Hospital for the Major Series challenge, but had to withdraw from the 12k mud-filled course herself after finding out she was pregnant just a couple of weeks before the event.

Despite not being able to take part, Lisa was there to cheer her team-mates on as they raised almost £2,000 for The Ambulance Staff Charity (TASC). The charity provides vital support to members of the ambulance service in times of real need.

The daunting Major Series challenge which was held at Ragley Hall in Alcester on October 22, pits competitors against a series of obstacles including muddy bogs, trenches and cold water lakes.

Fitness

Lisa had organised the team along with fellow paramedic Holly Seymour, with them both also planning to take part in next year's London Marathon.

Lisa who is 33 and lives in Brewood, near Wolverhampton, said: "The ambulance service generally doesn't really get much support, so we wanted to raise money for TASC, but Holly and I also wanted to improve our fitness ahead of next year's London Marathon."

"However, I couldn't do the course because I found out I was pregnant.

"I was really disappointed that I couldn't take part. But there are some pretty tough obstacles, such as swamp-type areas they have to swim through and carrying logs, so they were all exhausted and freezing afterwards.

"What was really nice is they all stuck together and went round the course as a group, taking around two hours 20 minutes."

Lisa, who already has two daughters, Charlie, 11, and Tayla, eight, with her paramedic partner Jonathan, is now planning a similar challenge next year. My baby is due next May so I will definitely be able to do that one. But, unfortunately, I've had to pull out of the London Marathon," she added. To support Lisa's team, visit justgiving.com/fundraising/medicallychallenged

Some of the West Bromwich ambulance station team ahead of the challenge, including mother-to-be Lisa West

Members of the triumphant team who took part in the mud run co-organised by paramedic Lisa West

Brilliantly presented classic for a winter thrill

REVIEW - The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde
Barlow Theatre, Langley

AN intimate and haunting science fiction classic. Not my words but those of Oldbury Rep, and how can anyone argue with that summing up of Robert Louis Stevenson's classic novel, adapted here by Doncaster-born Nick Lane?

There's no doubt about it: this is a difficult piece of work to present on stage but hats off to everyone concerned for presenting a haunting, atmospheric and at times disturbing production.

What stands out is the consistency in creating a captivating mood from curtain-up, right through some intriguing and surprising twists and turns along the way, to the memorable climax.

Directed by Paul Steventon Marks – he also takes the role of Mr Hyde – this show requires some concentration but the rewards are plentiful.

Set in Dr Jekyll's laboratory and various locations around London, the storyline poses many questions, not least the limits to which scientific research should be taken in the interests of self-improvement and getting the upper hand over mortality.

And while the set, costumes and eerie music provided the ideal setting for such an iconic work, it was Shady Murphy who stole the show with her faultless portrayal of the bumptious yet vulnerable Eleanore O'Donnell. Garry Cooper is sure-footed as Dr Jekyll, while Rob Fusco and Phil Astle guarantee that the pace never flags as Dr Hastings Lanyon and Gabriel John Utterson respectively.

With the long winter nights now stretching out ahead for the next few months, there surely is never a better time to catch this production. Runs until Saturday. Call the box office on 0121 552 2761 or go to www.oldburyrep.org

STEVE PARLETT

Woman falls to death at library

A WOMAN died after falling from a balcony at the Library of Birmingham.

The incident happened at 12.07pm outside the Library on Broad Street.

Ambulance services received a number of calls stating that someone had fell and was on the ground.

Murray Macgregor, spokesman for West Midlands Ambulance Service, said: "We sent an ambulance crew who arrived on the scene in seven minutes. The crew updated us to say that they had a patient who was in cardiac arrest and resuscitation was in progress.

"A doctor turned up a few minutes later but unfortunately the injuries were too severe to save her."

The Library of Birmingham is one of the cities major cultural destinations.

A police spokesman said: "Police received an emergency call just after 12 noon, this afternoon after witnesses saw a woman fall from a balcony. The woman's family has been informed."

Brothers are jailed after family row turns violent

FIVE brothers have been jailed following a violent family row.

Saghir Ahmed, Mohammed Azam, Imran Khan, Ayaz Mahmood and Yaqoob Raza were jailed for their part in the incident in Cheshire Road, Smethwick, on April 12 last year.

Iftikar Ahmed, another brother, and Raza Ali, father of the six, were given suspended terms at Wolverhampton Crown Court for their roles. All seven men live in Cheshire Road.

Mr Delroy Henry, prosecuting, said Kasam Mohammed, son of Abdul Aziz, had returned to Cheshire Road after celebrating his marriage, driving with three family members including his father and brother Asif Aziz.

He said the group armed themselves with wood and started striking the vehicle. Saghir Ahmed used a piece of wood with a nail or a screw through it to strike both Abdul Aziz near the eye, causing a 6.5cm cut, and hit Mr Asif on the back of the head.

Saghir Ahmed, 39, pleaded guilty to assault occasioning actual bodily harm, malicious wounding and affray. He was sentenced to 39 months. Mahmood, 35, pleaded guilty to affray and got 19 months. Khan, 34, admitted affray and was sentenced to 18 months, as did Azam, 44, and Raza, 31, who got 14-month jail terms.

Iftikar Ahmed, 38, pleaded guilty to affray and criminal damage. He was given 16-months, suspended for two years and 160 hours of community service. Ali, 66, pleaded guilty to affray, and was given 14-months, suspended for two years.

Defibrillator at public gardens

A PUBLIC botanical garden near the University of Birmingham has been fitted with a life-saving device thanks to West Midlands Ambulance Service.

The trust donated a defibrillator to Winterbourne House and Garden on Edgbaston Park Road and ambulance staff will be giving training in basic first aid and how to use the machine.

Andy Jeynes, the trust's community response manager for Birmingham and the Black Country, said: "Winterbourne House and Garden is an ideal location for a defibrillator."

Lee Hale, had of Winterbourne House & Garden, said: This venture demonstrates a need to improve emergency procedures but also highlights valuable partnership working across the region."

Singer Anastacia in city concert

SINGER and Strictly contestant Anastacia has announced a 14-date UK tour in May and June.

She will be performing in Symphony Hall, Birmingham, on May 28. Tickets for her Ultimate Collection tour have gone on sale.

Play's powerful, Powell-full shadows

Paula Wilcox as Marjorie Jones, George Costigan as Clem Jones, Ian McDiarmid as Enoch Powell and Brid Brennan as Pamela Powell

REVIEW - What Shadows, Birmingham Rep, By Alex Ross

IT unleashed a political storm, splitting the nation – a 3,000 word speech by Wolverhampton South-West MP Enoch Powell. The location was the former Midland Hotel in Birmingham, the date was April 20, 1968 – almost 50 years ago.

Yet listening to this iconic speech all these years on, the issues sound all too similar to those today.

An influx of immigrants, lack of hospital beds, dwindling school places and neighbourhoods changed beyond recognition. It was the robustness of the words along with the delivery from acclaimed actor Ian McDiarmid which most impressed me.

McDiarmid did not fail to deliver – providing all the passion and emotion Mr Powell can be seen full of all those years ago.

Jumping back and forth from the speech in 1962 to 1992, the play focuses on two stories, one of Powell and his ill-fated friendship with former Express & Star editor Clem Jones, played by George Costigan. Mr Jones, who babysits Powell's children on the night of the speech, is left mortified by the talk, which he orchestrated to ensure maximum media coverage. The second story covers the story of Oxford academic Rose Cruickshank, played by Rebecca Scroggs, who grew up in the shadow of Powell's speech in Wolverhampton.

She meets Powell in his old age for a showdown to find out what influenced his words, which she says damaged her. It is a quite brilliant play which raises the issue of British identity superbly.

It runs until Saturday.

10 years for arsonist who torched ex's home

AN arsonist who set fire to his ex-partner's home when she and her six-year-old daughter were still inside, and then tried to set fire to himself, has been jailed for 10 years.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard how the 26-year-old mother bravely rescued her daughter, after waking to find her former boyfriend Daniel Watkins in her Cradley home saying: "I'm going to set this alight and you're going to burn in hell for what you did to me."

The victim described how her living room and hallway then burst into flame, as a result of petrol Watkins had poured around her house on Chapelhouse Lane in the early hours of June 3.

Watkins, 34, of Smiths Close, Alcester, admitted two counts of arson with intent to endanger life, and was sentenced to a 10-year custodial sentence, along with an additional four years to be served on licence.

Threatening

Mr Howard Searle, prosecuting, said Watkins and the adult victim, who along with her daughter cannot be named for legal reasons, had an 'on and off' relationship for around six to seven months.

The relationship broke down, but on May 27 the defendant sent a threatening text message, which read: 'Wouldn't it be awful for [her daughter] to lose her mum.'

Another text message sent to someone else but seen by her stepfather said Watkins 'would do time for her'.

In fear the victim stayed at her mother's for a few days prior to the incident, but on June 2 had returned home.

After putting her young daughter to bed, the victim went to sleep herself after watching TV, but then woke in the early hours because she had a feeling 'something was wrong'.

On getting up she made the terrifying discovery that Watkins was inside, having gained

Report by Judith Hawkins

entry, seemingly through doors. He was standing halfway down the stairs when he said threatened: 'You're going to burn in hell' threat.

"At that moment she saw the flames light up," said Mr Searle.

Watkins fled, leaving the woman to desperately rush to her daughter's bedroom, covering the youngster in a sheet. She called 999 and also called out to the neighbours who woke to her screams.

Getting to the rear of the house, as she was unable to escape through the front door, the woman gradually lowered her daughter down from an upstairs window approximately 10 feet up, to the neighbours waiting below.

It wasn't until the emergency services arrived that she herself escaped.

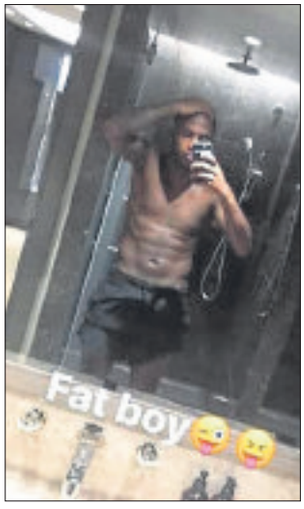
Their house was so badly damaged they have been unable to return.

Representing Watkins, Mr Graham Blower said this client's actions related to his ongoing addiction to Class A drugs, but acknowledged that the only mitigating aspect was that his client had pleaded guilty.

In addition to the custodial and extended sentence, Judge James Burbage QC imposed a restraining order forbidding Watkins from having any contact with the two victims for the rest of his life.

Six-pack Saido's slim chance

Saido Berahino of West Bromwich



The Baggies striker with his six-pack

TONY Pulis has shrugged off Saido Berahino's latest outburst on social media after the troubled striker appeared to question the necessity of his four-day training regime in the south of France.

The 23-year-old uploaded a topless photo of himself with a six-pack on to his Instagram account accompanied with the words 'Fat boy' and a winking face emoji.

Head coach Tony Pulis sent the 23-year-old abroad on Friday in an attempt to get him back to a level of fitness he deems acceptable.

When Pulis was asked about the striker's photo after Albion's 2-1 win at champions Leicester, the Welshman said: "He's looking nearly there, nearly." Albion turned down two £20 million bids for Berahino in the summer because they couldn't find a replacement but Pulis has left the academy product has been left out of the last four squads.

Last month it emerged the Albion head coach thought the striker was overweight, something it's believed Berahino himself disputes.

Last year Berahino landed himself in hot water on transfer deadline day when he tweeted that he would never play again for Jeremy Peace, who was chairman of Albion at the time, after he blocked a move to Tottenham.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Shocking Victorian tale of revenge

A TERRIBLE Victorian tale of revenge after a savage street attack on a Doctor Gilmore will be told at the West Bromwich Institute at 7.30pm next Tuesday evening (November 15).

Genealogist Vanessa Morgan will recount this shocking story, and the lengths the good doctor went to, including a fake haunting, to wreak his ultimate revenge.

Originally recorded in Victorian times by Redditch based historian James Mills Woodward, Vanessa will forensically examine how much of this outrageous catalogue of violence, cheating and unrequited love is actually true. Or was it an urban myth?

Entrance is at the back of West Bromwich Library. Tickets are £3.

Performers sought for big switch-on

SANTA Claus is planning his annual appearance at the switch-on of the Cradley Heath Christmas Lights on Saturday.

A search has been launched to increase the number of local people involved in the event with singers, musicians and entertainers urged to come forward.

The organisers are looking for people to share their talents with festive solos, sing-alongs and dances on the outdoor stage.

In addition, 10 free stalls are available to charities and not-for-profit organisations to add to their Christmas appeal.

Anyone interested should contact Fran Wilde of Walk Works CIC for further information on 07952 563725.

Company's last workers to leave

THE last of the axed British Gas workers were this week expected to leave the company's Oldbury offices.

Some 684 people were made redundant after the energy giant announced it was closing its base at Swallowfield One, off Wolverhampton Road, in April. The final 12 are due to leave tomorrow (Friday).

The redundancies follow thousands of job cuts announced by parent company Centrica. Councils in the Black Country have joined force with Job Centre Plus to try to help those affected find work.

Redevelopment plan at car park

THE redevelopment of a car park opposite a an arson-hit former Sandwell College building has been earmarked for approval by planning officers.

The car park in Crocketts Lane is no longer used and council bosses are keen to have the site redeveloped. Council leader Steve Eling has said the land is 'ideal for housing'.

An outline planning application has been lodged and planning committee members were recommended to approve the plans this week.

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

OUR changing language. I've lost count this week of the number of times radio and TV commentators have told us that the gap between Clinton and Trump is "tightening." A spanner tightens; gaps narrow.

THE Marmite controversy rumbles on. A reader asks why a fall in the pound should affect the price of a spread made from by-products of the British brewing industry. He says: "I reckon somebody is extracting the yeast."

ONLY a few years ago, we were assured that eating eggs caused high cholesterol and clogged your arteries. Then we were told the theory was nonsense. And this week we are told that a review of 300,000 patients suggests an egg a day keeps strokes at bay. A moment's silence, please, for those who put their faith in the experts, stopped eating eggs and died of strokes.

DO you detect the sickly whiff of hypocrisy? Home Secretary Amber Rudd rules out a full inquiry into the 1984 Battle of Orgreave and some Labour politicians cry shame. Yet Labour was in power for 13 years. They had plenty of time to hold an inquiry. So why didn't they?

WE may not need a full-blown, lawyer-fest inquiry but Orgreave should be remembered and re-examined, if only to separate fact from propaganda. For a start, Orgreave was not a popular, class-war uprising against the despised Margaret Thatcher that dozens of Leftie websites suggest.

Thatcher was actually very popular in the 1980s. The year before Orgreave she led the Tories to a landslide election victory with a huge majority of 144 seats. Three years after Orgreave she won her third general election with another massive majority. Although many Brits had sympathy for the miners, there were bitter memories of the Three Day Week caused by the miners' strike of 1974. On the day itself, before the police perjury and evidence-tampering began, most folk supported the force's action. Victory for the police in the Battle of Orgreave may have been ugly but defeat was unthinkable.

CONTINUING the recent theme of inflation, a reader on a pension calculates that, in order to buy the house he has occupied for 49 years today, he would have to be a first-time buyer earning £60,000 a year.

MORE to the point, he says, when he first paid to watch Wolves over 60 years ago, his hobby consumed about one-fiftieth of his salary. To get similar value in the Premier League today he would need to earn £90,000. He asks: "Has the football improved that much?" Discuss.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Jobs scheme at old school in spotlight

PLANS to convert the site of a former high school into a multi-million-pound industrial facility, creating 120 jobs, were this week being recommended for approval.

West Bromwich-based Steel & Alloy Processing Limited, who press and cut steel for the automotive industry, plan to expand their operations into Popes Lane in Oldbury.

The proposal includes a factory measuring more than 25,000 sq m, and was due to come before Sandwell Council's development control committee yesterday (Wednesday).

The 4.7m hectare site housed Albright High School, which closed in 1983, and Sandwell's Training and Development Centre, which has now been demolished.

The facility would operate on a 24/7 basis, with employees working over three shift patterns. The plans also allow for 500 sq m to be used for a utilities and waste management area and a 700 sq m two-storey office building. A gate house is proposed, with HGVs, staff and visitors accessing the site from Parsonage Street. In total 60 car parking spaces will be provided.

Some concerns were raised over whether the parking would be sufficient, but the planning officer's report to the development control committee states 'the applicant has demonstrated that their own shift patterns and current parking requirements at their existing locations provides sufficient parking provision to meet their requirements'.

Environmental health is looking into whether Birmingham Road residents would be affected by noise.

Stolen bus joyriders in police chase jailed

Report by John Scott

THREE men who ignored pursuing police for 12 miles while on a joyride in a stolen bus are behind bars.

Banned driver John Burton took no notice when two tyres of the single decker were burst by a 'stinger' laid across Penn Road, Wolverhampton in a bid to halt its progress.

The vehicle continued on the wheel rims – and overtook a car – while listing alarmingly and leaving a trail of smoke and sparks.

The bus, tailed from the Shropshire border by a police helicopter and patrol cars with flashing lights and sirens, careered through a red light without stopping in Parkfield Road, Parkfield, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard. It went the wrong way round a roundabout, knocked down a road sign, clipped the kerb and tore off part of its bodywork in a collision with a fence suffering £10,000 of damage, said Mr Ian Windridge, prosecuting.

The Sandwell Travel single decker finally came to a standstill in The Paddock, Bilston where the driver and two passengers made a run for it but were caught.

Camera

Two men were seen stealing it from the company's base in Tinsley Street, Tipton on March 30. The pursuit began six hours later, at 2.20am, when it triggered an automatic number plate recognition camera. Burton, aged 38, of Brookside, Telford and his passengers, Simon Loveland, 39, from Dale Close, Tipton and Thomas Tibbs, aged 21, of Clinic Drive, Stourbridge, all pleaded guilty to aggravated vehicle taking on the grounds of either driving or being carried in it. They had all been drinking.

Mr Andrew Mitchinson, defending, said: "It is only by the grace of God that serious injury was not caused to anybody."

Judge James Burbidge QC jailed Burton for 16 months and Loveland for a year. They had 37 and 31 previous convictions respectively. Tibbs got a six month term because of his age and single previous conviction.

Girls team setting the standards

Under-13s captain Shannon Cook, celebrates the Charter Standard award with Rowley Wildcats team-mates

A GIRLS' football team has been recognised by the Football Association less than a year after it launched.

Rowley Wildcats was formed by Esne Malpass, who was frustrated at the lack of opportunities for her daughter.

Esne decided to set up a team herself in February and it has achieved major success in its first year.

There are already four teams at different age groups, with others for younger and older girls in the pipeline.

The team has been awarded the Charter Standard by the FA, an accreditation scheme run by the game's governing body which allows them to access more benefits.

Rowley Wildcats is thought to be the only girls-only team in Sandwell and youngsters have come from all over the Black Country to be a part of it. Training takes place at St Michael's High School in Curral Road, Rowley Regis.

Esne, aged 37, said: "The reason I started it is because my daughter likes football. She was at a club but it was quite a distance away so we decided to start one ourselves. When it started there were that many girls who wanted to play."

To receive Charter Standard recognition, the club had to pass a series of hurdles to make sure it was being run properly and all coaches were qualified and had undergone the relevant checks.

Equipment

It will open doors for the team and allow them to receive kit and equipment, easing some of the financial burden on the club."

Esne, whose 12-year-old daughter Natasha plays for the under-13s team, said she hoped the team could help to boost girls' football in the region. She said: "We've got girls coming from different areas; Great Bridge and Walsall. One girl comes from Brownhills."

Food group boss hails improving performance

BLACK Country 'Chicken King' Ranjit Boparan has hailed an 'encouraging performance' at his 2 Sisters Food Group, with sales and profits rising in recent months.

Latest figures from its parent company, Boparan Holdings, show sales up 2.4 per cent to £775 million in the three months to the end of July, while operating profit surged almost 40 per cent to £24.3m.

But, after exceptional items, pre-tax profit was down 10.8m to £2.4m.

Over the year as a whole sales were flat at £3.13 billion, but operating profit surged 58 per cent to £90.5m. After exceptional items full year losses were halved to £1.4m.

Chief executive Mr Boparan, who founded the business more than 20 years ago, said: "We are pleased to report another encouraging performance with continuing improvements in sales and operating profit.

"The market remains tough with the uncertainties around the UK's decision to leave the EU, currency-driven inflation and the volatile grocery market still applying great pressures on the food manufacturing sector."

The 2 Sisters group has grown to employ 23,000 people with sites across the UK and Europe as well as its plants in West Bromwich, Wolverhampton and Smethwick. As well as owning the Goodfellas Pizza and Fox's Biscuits brands it processes six million chickens a week – producing a third of all the poultry eaten in the UK every day.

Man dies after scooter in crash

AN elderly man died after his mobility scooter collided with a car.

Officers were called to Oldbury Road in Smethwick at around 9.10am last Wednesday, after reports an elderly man had been seriously injured in a collision with a black VW Golf.

A 68 year-old man from Smethwick was taken to hospital, but died in the early hours. West Midlands Police are now appealing for witnesses.

Sergeant Alan Wood, from the regional collision investigation unit, said: "I would appeal to anyone who witnessed what happened or has any information that could help with the investigation to contact us."

The car driver stopped at the scene and is assisting officers with the investigation. Anyone with information is asked to call Sgt Wood on 101.

Extra Take That date for Wonderland tour

TAKE That have added another Birmingham date to its UK tour next year. The group had already announced shows at the Genting Arena from June 1 to 3.

A concert on May 5 has now been added to the Wonderland Live tour.

About 70pc in borough classed as overweight

HEALTH bosses in Sandwell, keen to get people to sign up to a free health support service, say almost 70 per cent of adults in the borough are overweight or obese.

Healthy Sandwell, part of Sandwell Council Public Health, says more than 1,000 people a month use its advice services but wants to help more people lead healthier lives.

The team helps residents to quit smoking, lose weight, access NHS Health Check, get active and get the support they need for alcohol and drug related problems.

Since the service started three years ago, the number of people it has helped has tripled, but there are still many people who could benefit and NHS Health Check data shows 70 per cent of adults in the borough are overweight or obese.

"We want to help all people living in Sandwell feel great and be healthy," said Councillor Preet Gill, cabinet member for public health and protection. "Small changes now can make sure people live longer healthier lives.

"Smoking and obesity are the leading cause of disease and illness in our borough, and while smoking prevalence has reduced in Sandwell, we have a growing obesity problem. But with great programmes running to help people lose weight and get active, we are committed to improving the lives of our residents."

Anyone interested in understanding more about Healthy Sandwell, can go to www.sandwell.gov.uk/healthysandwell, or call 0800 011 4656.

NEC motor show is UK's biggest

THE UK's biggest classic motor show will take place at Birmingham's NEC from tomorrow (Friday).

The British Motor Museum will be exhibiting at the Lancaster Insurance Classic Motor Show for three days.

It will feature 2,500 classic cars and bikes, 600 specialist exhibitors, 270 classic car and bike club stands, celebrity guests and the Wheeler Dealers Live Stage with Discovery Channel.

The British Motor Museum will be showcasing some prized cars on their stand and offering a free prize draw to win a range of prizes, including a Laser Tools tool chest and annual membership.

For more information on the Lancaster Insurance Classic Motor Show, visit www.necclassicmotorshow.com

Last Tango staged by theatre group

BLACK Country Theatre stages a comedy production this weekend.

The Last Tango in Tipton runs tomorrow (Friday) and Saturday in the theatre at The Comedian pub, New Road at 7.30pm. Tickets are £5.

Fly-tipping misery as rubble dumped

Rubble left off Kent Road, Wednesbury

BUILDING rubble and other rubbish has been dumped at a fly-tipping hotspot in Wednesbury.

The land off Kent Road has regularly been chosen as a dumping ground with nearby businesses becoming fed-up with the constant fly-tipping.

This time, it is bricks, slabs and buckets, as well as a rug and a tree, which have been left at the roadside.

Previously, council workers have had to come out to deal with fridge freezers, cardboard and household waste that have been dumed.

The latest load of rubbish has been on the land for more than a week.

Malcolm Clarke, who works at the nearby Wednesbury Animal Sanctuary, has grown frustrated with the fly-tipping.

He said: "It has been going on for about 10 years. We have has 200 tyres, three tons of building rubble, asbestos sheets, everything. Three weeks ago we had 34 freezers dumped."

Mr Clarke believes the area's isolated location away from main roads is the reason it has become a hotspot. "It's disgraceful," he said. "It is messing with the environment, where you have got to live and could be destroying the habitat of wildlife."

Weeks ago, 100 tonnes of waste – including cardboard, plastic, household waste and carrier bags – was dumped on land off Portway Hill, in Rowley Regis.

It was quickly shifted after health concerns were raised by the Environment Agency.

Council chiefs launched a fresh crackdown on fly-tipping across the borough last year after the clean-up bill topped £180,000 over 12 months.

Thumbs-up from care chief for development

SANDWELL'S adult social care chief has given the thumbs-up to a new extra care housing development in West Bromwich.

Councillor Ann Shackelton met residents and others who attend activities there. The council's cabinet member for social care, said everyone she met at Oakley Gardens seemed happy and settled.

Developed in partnership with Housing and Care 21, Oakley Gardens is set within landscaped gardens and has 81 one and two-bedroom apartments for residents aged 55 and over with care and support needs.

Councillor Shackleton said: "I wanted to find out first-hand how residents are settling in. Take-up has been really good, with 94 tenants currently living in the 81 self-contained apartments.

"I spoke with a number of residents and people who attend activities at Oakley Gardens in the communal lounge area and they all seemed impressed with the apartments and facilities.

"The great thing about extra care housing like this is that it allows older people to stay independent while also having the safety and comfort of knowing there's a care team on-site 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Private

"We're looking to have this type of supported living in each of Sandwell's six towns."

Each apartment at Oakley Gardens, which opened in July last year, has a generous hallway leading to a private lounge, fitted kitchen and wet room with shower. On-site facilities include a hair and beauty salon, restaurant, well-tended gardens, communal lounge and even a guest room for family and friends.

The inside of the apartments are clean and modern and the accommodation is also dementia friendly.

Councillor Shackleton said some people who had needed short-term accommodation after leaving hospital had liked it so much at Oakley Gardens they had decided to rent an apartment permanently.

The council is about to develop a new supported living scheme with 93 bungalows and apartments at Oxford Road, West Bromwich, for people with a range of health issues, with plans for two further extra care housing schemes, scheduled to open in 2019, at Moor Lane, Rowley Regis, and Durham Estate, Great Barr.

Charley takes on fundraising mantle

Charley Mantle, who works at the West Brom, Cradley Heath branch, with Liam Taylor, of Toni & Guy's

A CUSTOMER service adviser has had her hair chopped off, raising a total of £500 for charity.

Charley Mantle, who works at the Cradley Heath branch of the West Bromwich Building Society, had her long locks chopped for Teenage Cancer Trust, helping the firm break through the £20,000 barrier in just six months of supporting the charity.

The 23-year-old also donated her hair to the Little Princess Trust, a charity which provides wigs and hair pieces for children suffering from cancer.

Charley, from Kingswinford, said: "I really wanted to do something for charity and the two organisations which benefited are brilliant causes.

"It was the first time I've had my hair cut in a good number of years and around 15 inches came off and was donated to Little Princess Trust.

"I was pretty nervous having so much cut off but, at the same time, it was exciting to be involved."

The charity cut took place at Toni & Guy's, in Victoria Street, Wolverhampton.

Emily Henderson, from Teenage Cancer Trust, said: "We are thrilled with the way that Charley and her colleagues fhave got behind the push to raise money for Teenage Cancer Trust."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Two go to hospital after M-way crash

TWO people were taken to hospital with minor injuries following a four-car crash on a West Midlands motorway.

Emergency services were called to the scene between junctions five and six of the M42, near Birmingham's NEC, at 8.15am last Thursday.

Motorists faced delays as two lanes of the northbound carriageway was closed.

A man in his 20s was taken to Queen Elizabeth Hospital while a second patient was taken to Heartlands Hospital.

Second city job applications soar

JOB vacancies in Birmingham rose 7.9 per cent in the last year, according to independent job site CV-Library.

It was in the top five UK cities for job growth, coming in ahead of London (6.8 per cent) and falling slightly behind Edinburgh (10.8 per cent), Manchester (11 per cent) and Southampton (11.9 per cent).

Job application rates also rocketed for the city by 17.3 per cent last month from October 2015.

Average salaries in Birmingham remained static last month, rising by just 0.1 per cent to £31,166.

Tickets go on sale for Disney On Ice

DISNEY On Ice is returning to the stage in Birmingham, featuring more than 50 Disney characters.

Celebrating 100 years of magic, the fanfare production will feature a whole range of Disney stars, including Frozen favourites Anna and Elsa.

The shows will take place at Birmingham Genting Arena on April 12-17 2017 with tickets on general sale from tomorrow (Friday) at 9am from www.theticketfactory.com or by calling 0844 33 88 222.

£10,000 of cannabis discovered at house

AROUND £10,000 worth of cannabis was discovered at a house in Oldbury.

An electrical engineer stumbled across the 229 plants at the house in Springfield Road.

Nobody was at the house when police arrived and an investigation has now been launched to try to find out who has been growing the cannabis.

The plants were being stored together under lighting equipment.

Anyone with information is asked to call West Midlands Police on 101.

Takeaway bid lodged

A FORMER tanning studio could turned into a takeaway. The change of use was submitted to Dudley Council planners for 209 Priory Road. Planning documents state the applicant has operated a takeaway in Tipton for the past 20 years and is 'confident that the business will be successful'.

IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Inmates are leading us all a merry old dance

ALL does not seem to be well in HM Prison Service at the moment.

First of all, we have had the riot at Bedfordshire jail, where two inmates were taken to hospital and the warders retreated to a "safe space" while the lags turned the place upside down, filming the jollity on mobile phones while they were at it.

Then, over at Pentonville nick, two inmates, including a would-be murderer, successfully made a dash for freedom after stuffing their pillows under the bedclothes to make the officers think they were asleep

Still, nice to see those good old progressive bods at the Ministry of Justice have got a plan to bring order to the chaos.

They are going to spend £8.4 million giving every jailbird a flat-screen telly, presumably in the belief that the miscreants would all become model citizens if only they were allowed to watch Ed Balls prance about on Strictly Come Dancing in high definition.

Not only that, thousands is being spent on new gym equipment, which will presumably get the lags in shape for the next time they fancy a dust-up on B-wing, or a to do a moonlight flit when they get a file in their birthday cake.

One jail has even spent £30,000 employing a hairdresser.

How can it cost 30 grand to give a few old lags a grade two back and sides?

This next question is probably naive in the extreme, and explains why people like me never get anywhere near the justice system, but I'm going to ask it anyway.

Wouldn't it be better value to spend £8.4 million on a few extra prison officers to give the inmates under control?

❒❒❒

STAYING with the justice system, former attorney general Dominic Grieve has launched a blistering attack on the tabloid press over its coverage of last week's High Court ruling that could derail Britain's withdrawal from the EU.

Mr Grieve accused some newspapers of demonstrating 'fascist' behaviour, and compared their conduct with Robert Mugabe's Zimbabwe.

He does protest too much, me thinks.

After all, I would have thought a panel of judges over-ruling the result of a democratic vote to frustrate the will of voters would be right up Comrade Mugabe's street.

❒❒❒

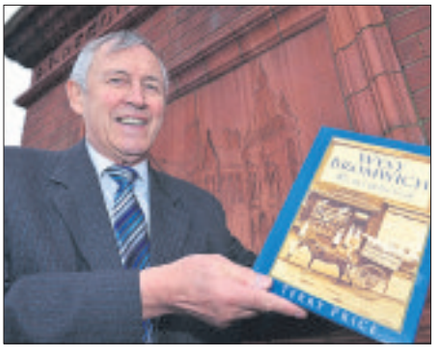
I WON'T pretend I understand the first thing about the latest cyber attack on Tesco bank, which has cleared out several customers' accounts.

But it does highlight once more just how vulnerable the internet is to fraudsters.

And no matter what incentives the banks come up with, nothing convince me to take up internet banking.

A picture from the 1970s of the infants entrance in Turner Street

The former Guns Village Primary School on Earl Street



Author Terry Price, with one of his West Bromwich books

Truth of school name is in historian's sights

JUDITH HAWKINS speaks to author and historian Terry Price about the potentially much older origins of the Guns Village place name

AFTER controversy over a school's decision to change its name, a historian has spoken to the Express & Star about the true origins of the name 'Guns Village'.

Terry Price is a meticulous researcher in the history of West Bromwich, and has written several books on the town as well as on Great Bridge.

Mr Price says he is disheartened to see the historic name of the Guns Village Primary School go, but highlights that it is a misconception to think it relates to gun manufacturing in the area during the world wars.

In fact, he reveals that the name dates back even further into the past, to the time of Oliver Cromwell.

He said: "A lot of people have said that it is called Guns Village because guns were made in the area, but this just isn't the case. Looking at the old trade directories you can see that gun makers were actually based in other parts of West Bromwich, not there."

Deserter

Mr Price has highlighted a pertinent passage written by Joseph Reeves in his 1836 History of West Bromwich, which reveals the true origins of the name.

It states: "Camp Bank, on West Bromwich common, between the lodge and Cutlers-end, was thrown up by the soldiers under Oliver Cromwell, when they laid siege against Dudley Castle, AD 1644, but this was too far for execution.

The sign seen outside Guns Village Primary School, which could soon be Hanbury Primary

"A regiment of soldiers passing over Bromwich Heath, (some say they were at camp) a court martial was held over a deserter, and he was shot near Cross Guns."

This is a reference to the Cross Guns Inn, where it was said musket ball holes were still visible in the walls right through to the early 1900s.

This pub then underwent its own name change in the 70's to The Marksman, before eventually being converted into a restaurant and supermarket.

"It's sad to see a lot of the old pubs and their old names going – there is a lot of history there," added Mr Price.

Despite this rich history of the area, authorities at Guns Village Primary School have decided to change the name, arguing that it has negative associations with gun crime, as well as causing practical problems such as being blocked by their internal IT systems.

Many parents and local people have fought against the change, including more than 650 people signing a petition.

Nevertheless, from September next year it is due to become Hanbury Primary. The current site of the school, off Hanbury Road, was also once Hamblet's Blue Brick Works and Quarry.

Taking this into account, Mr Price has his own suggestions for a replacement name, adding: "If the name is to change, a better one would be 'Hamblet's Primary School', I have never heard of 'Hanbury' historically.

"And to solve internet problems, why not call it 'New Guns Village Primary School'?"

One of those who is particularly angry at the school's name change, is former pupil Joyce Clarke, who said: "I think this decision has been made without having any understanding of our culture and our heritage."

On learning that the historical significance of 'guns' goes back much further than she originally thought, Ms Clarke added: "That just means it's even more important.

"It is our heritage and it makes me so angry that somebody is trying to eradicate it.

"Instead we should be teaching our children about the past."

Timeline:

1644 – West Bromwich Common/Heath Cromwell's troops in the Civil War camped in the area when laying siege to Dudley Castle, but was too far for their cannons to reach. A court martial was held over a deserter who was afterwards shot near the Cross Guns Inn. It was said that the holes made by the musket balls were still visible in the wall of the Cross Guns Inn during the early 1900s. The Cross Guns motif or emblem was used by military regiments many years ago.

1771 – Turnpike map of West Bromwich shows the Cross Guns Inn on West Bromwich Heath opposite an unnamed lane without any buildings in it. This is Cross Guns Lane, later known as Guns Lane.

1835 – Trade directory Pigot and Co.'s shows Cross Guns Lane with two traders in it, a boot and shoe maker and a bricklayer.

1836 – Reeves' first history and trade directory shows five pistol makers in West Bromwich, but these were located at Bull Street, Churchfield, New Street, Sandwell Road and Virgins End. There were none in Cross Guns Lane. On the High Street an auctioneer lived at Protector Cottage – a reference to Oliver Cromwell, the Lord Protector. Also there was a pub on in Wearby Wood Lane named Oliver Cromwell, and Cromwell Street on the Tantany Estate.

1837 – Woods Map of West Bromwich shows the lane opposite The Cross Guns Inn as 'Snow Hill', neither Guns Lane or Guns Village are shown. It appears therefore that the Guns Village and district name must have come into use around 1840. It's not unusual for lanes, roads, and streets to be named after a nearby pub, as probably this area was. Swan Village and Swan Lane are also named after an Inn, the Swan dating from 1550.

1851 – Guns Village Primitive Methodist Chapel opened – adjacent rooms were used as a school in 1873.

1879 – Guns Village Infants and Junior School, on Earl Street, opened.

1973 – Cross Guns Inn changed name to Marksman, it is now half a restaurant and a half a supermarket.

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Bostin' buskin' for charities at precinct

OCTOBER 22 saw a group of performers from John Langford's Maverick acoustic night come to the Cosy Café in Churchill precinct in Dudley.

Under the banner of the Omma n Chain Show and Black Country Radio with John's help and the support of Paul and all his staff at the café we held a Buskin' For Local Charity day.

Last time we played it was for Autism West Midlands and on this occasion we decided to support Action Heart Dudley. We all have family members or friends who for one reason or another have heart surgery or related treatment. Action Heart play such an important role in getting individuals back on their feet.

John was in fact part of the team that worked on the original concept for the incredible unit at Russells Hall so it was great to use the day to support a movement close to his own heart. We were there almost all day and I can only thank all the performers, young and old who gave up their time. I have asked John to talk to people at Action Heart about coming on the Omma to raise the awareness for the group.

A special thanks to James Toft from one of my favourite bands Missing Link for handling the sound all day and to John for using his social media influence to get all the folks on site. Most of all thanks to the people who sat and listened and filled our collection box with their generous donation. The day raised £122.48 and I'm sure John will pass this on when he next visits the unit.

BRIAN DAKIN (BILLY SPAKE MON)
Tividale

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Sandwell Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL
sandwell.chronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Dismay on future trade

SO many of your readers who write in say we don't need the single market, we can trade with Australia and New Zealand and others – this is just plain ignorant. The single market's population is well over 500 million – the population of Australia is about 24 million, New Zealand – 4,700.000. India buys more from Germany and France from us. Do these people still think we are selling Morris Oxfords to these nations? Wake up.

MIKE PICKERING
West Bromwich

First help under-18s

THERE is a possibility that some of the people trying to enter the country are above the age where we should accept them. A suggestion made to use tools to try and ascertain their true age has been condemned by some.

My opinion for what it's worth is to take children who are without doubt under 18, there are plenty of young children who we need to help.

JOHN GREEN
Tipton

May's Brexit pleas falling on deaf ears

RE: Theresa May's dealings with the EU, which formally began on Thursday evening at the Prime Minister's first European Council summit.

She was unable to deliver her 'Brexit Briefing' until well after midnight on the first day of the summit.

The EU continues to refuse pre-emptive discussions prior to the Article 50 negotiations, besides it has much else to worry about.

The European Union's once much-vaunted trade agreement with Canada is in tatters after Belgium's French-speaking parliament rejected it. Meanwhile, Russia is stepping up its engagement in Syria and the migration crisis is flaring up too.

The PM's five-minute briefing is said to have been met with an almost deathly silence, the EU press later described as 'delusional' her demand for Britain to continue to be treated as a normal member until Brexit. The overwhelming sense in Brussels and among EU leaders is that this Brexit will be 'rough going' to use the words of Chancellor Merkel. Clearly, Britain, in spite of its ability to foster enviable alliances with nations the world over has not aroused much affection during its 43 years of membership and billions in budget transfers.

ALAN DAVIS
Darlaston

Just point out flaw in my logic

WILL someone please put me out of my agony and point out the flaw in my logic? Scenario: UK as I hope, refuses the free movement of people and is therefore kicked out of the EU single market.

Result: EU puts up tariff barriers to Brit goods; UK puts up tariff barriers to EU goods. However, with the pound being devalued, prices of EU goods into the United Kingdom will rise and prices of Brit exports to the EU will fall.

Net effect: EU sales to UK hit by a double whammy of a higher price due to the declining pound plus a further price hike due to the UK import tariff increase.

Why am I not hearing from the politicians and economists that EU exports to the UK would price-wise increase by a much greater degree than prices of Brit goods to the European Union? This would give the UK a commercial advantage, so why am I hearing nothing of this bargaining chip from the Remoaners?

ALAN M ETHERIDGE
Dudley

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An explosion of colour at the Walsall Arboretum's fireworks display

Emma Hill, aged seven, Jamie Hill, 10, and Chloe Nunnick, seven, from Aldridge

Crowds seen enjoying all the fun of the fair at Walsall Arboretum

A fantastic silhouette of fireworks revellers at Walsall

A youngster captures the flaming bonfire on her mobile phone

Night sparks 350 calls

BONFIRE Night brought double the number of incidents for the West Midlands fire service this year – with over 350 call-outs.

As thousands of people braved the cold on Saturday to catch a glimpse of some of the Black Country's best firework displays, the service reported that they received 356 calls during the evening, up from on 197 the previous year.

However, the majority of the calls were to small secondary, outdoor fires, mostly after people had lit bonfires on grass. They were also called to instances of smoke going into people's homes.

At Himley Hall, crowds gathered to celebrate the event's 40th year. Its biggest bonfire to date saw more than 1,500 wooden pallets used to build the bonfire and two kilometres of fuse wire was used to electronically spark the impressive fireworks.

Wolverhampton Racecourse's display was led by Signal 107 and compere Dicky Dodd. Whilst in Walsall, the Arboretum was awash with hundreds of sparkling fireworks and the event also featured Britain's Got Talent stars Stavros Flatley and included a music stage. However, the firework display at Dartmouth Park, West Bromwich, left some visitors disappointed.

The event, which was the busiest in years, allegedly saw some visitors turned away by security who were trying to keep control of the crowds.

Sandwell council released a statement on their Facebook page regarding the event. It said: "We're sorry to hear from people who were disappointed by the bonfire night at Dartmouth Park. It was incredibly busy and we're taking on board your feedback to understand the issues and help us organise future events."

Himley Hall seen during the attraction's big event, which was in its 40th year

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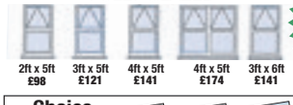

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Airline set to take on 75 technicians

Monarch Aircraft Engineering's new multi-million pound maintenance hangar at Birmingham Airport

BUDGET airline Monarch is creating 75 new jobs for skilled technicians at Birmingham Airport. The recruitment is for Monarch Aircraft Engineering, the engineering arm of the airline, and is part of the ongoing growth of the business which will expand the engineering team to around 250 staff.

Monarch Aircraft Engineering opened at the airport three years ago and has built a giant hangar there to provide jet maintenance and testing services, both for Monarch and other airlines on a contract basis. Most of the new roles are for trained engineers to carry out maintenance.

The airline recently had to refute speculation that it was experiencing financial trouble after its Twitter feed was inundated with customers asking if it was going bust.

Last month it agreed £165million investment from majority shareholder Greybull Capital which allowed the airline to renew its membership of the Air Travel Organisers' Licensing scheme.

It was the biggest investment in the airline's 48-year history. Monarch Aircraft Engineering created 150 jobs when the multi-million pound f110,000 sq ft acility at Birmingham first opened, with a plan to double that number in the long-term.

Booked up to swing in with music at library

THIMBLEMILL Library plays host to a selection of very different musical styles – big band, folk and blues – later this month.

The big band sounds of Count Basie and Duke Ellington will fill the air when the Out of the Blue Big Band visits on Saturday 19 November. Under the musical directorship of Jo James, their repertoire is drawn from the classic swing and big band era.

There will also be Latin, blues, soul, pop and rock 'n' roll on offer, starting at 7.30pm. The band, previously known as the Blues Max Big band, was originally formed in the early 1990s by members of a jazz workshop run by renowned jazz saxophonist the late Andy Hamilton.

The concert features guest vocalist Jan Harris and is in aid of Olivia's Vision, a major charity for adults and children who suffer from the potentially blinding disease Uveitus.

Tickets for the show at Thimblemill Road, Smethwick, cost £5 and are available from the library or by calling 0121 429 2039.

The following Saturday, also at 7.30pm, sees a complete change of tempo with folk singer Kim Lowings appearing. Kim fronts a collective of musicians called The Greenwood. Based in Stourbridge, they play a mix of folk.

By David Banner

Support comes from the six-piece Bearwood Bandits whose musical influences range from American blue grass and blues to European folk. Tickets are £5 in advance or £7 on the door and are available from the library or by calling 0121 429 2039. A licensed bar is available.

Leisure chief Councillor Richard Marshall, said: "This is another great example of our libraries providing informal and intimate venues for a wide range of musical acts."

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Imre Tolgyesi pictured in 1956

Imre's mother Iren Gulyas

Three-week Hungarian revolt stunned the Russians and the aftermath was felt in Wolverhampton

Failed uprising created shockwaves that were felt in Wolverhampton

IT lasted less than three weeks but the Hungarian uprising that convulsed Budapest exactly 60 years ago sent shockwaves throughout Europe that reverberated even as far as Wolverhampton.

MEMORY LANE

Report by Marion Brennan

It was to this Black Country city that dozens of Hungarian refugees, fleeing Russian tanks sent in to quash the rebellion, found sanctuary.

Among them was an eight-year-old boy and his mother who had escaped by rail and foot across the Austrian border and arrived in Tettenhall via the Cannock Chase wartime training camp at Brocton.

Now 69, Imre Tolgyesi still vividly remembers the day the uprising reached Gyor, the town, about the size of Wolverhampton, where he lived with his mother and grandparents.

"I was playing with friends when the Russian tanks came," he said. "The Mongolian troops were shooting at the demonstrators. I was so frightened, I ran home and hid until my mother, who worked as a cinema usherette, came home. A few days later she told me we were going for a train ride, she didn't say where to. We left with nothing."

Hunger, cold, fear and exhaustion followed but there were also many acts of kindness that made the journey across Germany and Belgium and, by boat, to England and the Black Country, tolerable.

But Imre Tolgyesi's life is extraordinary not only for his perilous escape from the Communist dictators who took over his homeland. Just as remarkable is the life he made for himself in Wolverhampton, as an upstanding citizen of his adopted home town and a pillar of the local Hungarian community.

Such has been his contribution that the Hungarian government has just awarded him the Order of Vitez, the equivalent of a British knighthood, in a ceremony in Budapest. The terrified eight-year-old could not have imagined he would one day return to the capital to receive his country's highest civic honour. But it is clear that despite a distance of more than 1,000 miles and six decades, part of Imre Tolgyesi never left Gyor.

Eclectic

His terraced house in Tettenhall, just off the village green, is crammed with mementos of his life and and loves, an eclectic mix of both cultures, for he has also embraced his adopted country.

There are richly-coloured tapestries, an Hungarian hunter's hat hanging from a peg and statuettes in Hungarian national costume but there are also quintessentially English artefacts such as horse brasses, a photograph of the Queen and, greeting visitors by the front door, a Beefeater figurine.

Among his extensive archive material is an essay he wrote at Wobaston Secondary Modern in 1963. The essay is entitled Escape From Hungary, which included the darkest moments of that journey, being followed by the secret police after he and his mother found themselves lost in a forest, as well as the light-hearted, like their amusement at the sight of the double-decker buses that were sent to Dover to pick them up.

After leaving school, he worked as an apprentice plumber and then a silver service waiter and cocktail barman at The Mount Hotel, Tettenhall before starting his own takeaway sandwich business. But for 35 years of his working life, he was employed by Wolverhampton social services, initially as an ambulance driver and later as a day centre officer, looking after the elderly and people with learning difficulties.

Alongside his paid work, the married father-of-three volunteered as a boy scout leader, has been a Justice of the Peace since 1989 and has assisted Hungarian elders in the city for the last three decades.

In 2003 he helped establish the Hungarian Cultural Association.

Honoured – Imre Tolgyesi Stanley, of Tettenhall

ADVERTISEMENT

Suction solution

Struggling with unstable dentures and looking for a possible solution that does not involve surgery or fixatives? Denture Clinic Principal Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) GDC 108353, who heads the team at his multi-disciplined practice in Dudley, takes a look at the increasingly popular Ultra Suction Dentures solution.

Denture Clinic Principal Steven Burchell with dental nurse Lydia Tranter

THERE are around 11 million denture wearers in the UK and it's not just the elderly who require them.

Surprisingly, nearly a million people aged 16 to 44 have false teeth.

There will be many different reasons for adult tooth loss – the most prevailing being dental disease – but wearers will all likely have at some stage another common problem: Stabilisation – particularly lower dentures that randomly move about and are hugely unpredictable.

If not addressed, displacement becomes progressively worse and as the denture rises from the gum, food particles are trapped beneath and sore spots quickly develop.

Secure

Despite bucketfuls of fixative, in the words of one patient, "the dentures appear to take on a life of their own" and sufferers can't eat what they want, when they want.

It's an all-too-familiar, daily story in any clinic.

Particularly for those without any teeth, gum profiles change through the passing of time and so does the denture fit as initial harmonious matches between gums and prosthetics are slowly compromised with bone and gum erosion.

Lifting, twisting and general movement of dentures is a sure indicator that a new prescription is required. False teeth are one of the most hard-working parts of the body, so it's vital the dentures have an exacting fit and are not prone to move.

What every denture wearer seeks are secure, comfortable teeth that don't embarrass while laughing, eating, talking and coughing – dentures that allow them to live spontaneously and enhance looks.

The dentists' favoured choice for stabilisation correction is implants. But not everyone is a suitable candidate and neither are they a first preference of all patients.

Enter the non-invasive Ultra Suction Dentures solution that hit the UK market from New Zealand some four years ago.

Again not suitable for everyone, but for those with the right kind of gum contours, a great option to add another level of 'stickability'.

Secure, comfortable and natural-looking, Ultra Suction Solution dentures attract the biggest number of inquiries at the Denture Clinic.

So how do they work? A small diaphragm seals off a one-way valve under bite pressure, creating a 'sucking' vacuum between the denture and gums. The result is a better fit to the soft tissues and improved resistance to any dislodging forces created by eating and speaking. The device can be mounted in upper or lower dentures.

Everyone with a denture should feel relaxed wearing them – there is absolutely no need to put up with ill-fitting and poorly functioning prosthetics that erode self-esteem and confidence. What's more, all dentures should look stunning.

The term 'facelift dentures' is banded around and it's spurious. Dentures can, however, replace the natural supporting structures of faces and pinched lips and sunken cheeks are able to take on a new, younger looking profile.

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Denture Clinic

Mystery over death of boy

MYSTERY surrounds the death of a 16-month-old baby after a coroner was forced to return an open verdict. Daniuyal Muhhamed died on November 7, 2015, after his parents found him struggling for breath at their home in West Bromwich.

Daniuyal, who was born on June 30, 2014, had suffered with health issues throughout his life due to what doctors believed to be Diamond–Blackfan anemia, for which he was still being tested up to his death.

The child had undergone numerous blood transfusions as doctors tried to combat the persistent loss of blood cells he had suffered, however neither a paediatric pathologist or coroner Zafar Siddique could confirm this condition was what killed him during an inquest at Oldbury Coroners Court.

Mr Siddique, upon returning an open verdict said: "We cannot say what the exact mechanism behind the death was. I would like to express my deepest sincere condolences to the family."

Multi-million pound medical centre opens its doors as surgeries merge

A MULTI-million pound health centre has opened. The Great Barr Medical Centre, on Queslett Road, is a two-storey surgery with 35 parking spaces.

It replaces two former surgeries in Moreton Avenue and Walsall Road, which have merged to form the new practice.

The facility, built on a former solicitors' site, will serve thousands of residents and is under The Great Barr Group Practice. The project was the vision of Dr Bikram Ratti and Dr Amarjit Kandola.

Dr Ratti said: "I am thrilled to be able to offer the new surgery to the local people of Great Barr whilst accommodating all the services that are normally only found in the largest health centres. I believe we can now offer a very comprehensive service to our patients all under one roof."

He added: "The initial feedback we have had from our patients has been tremendous and I am pleased to have the support and backing of the clinical commissioning group who shared our vision and recognised the need for this type of facility."

The new surgery encompasses the traditional GP services. It also has a diabetic clinic, minor surgery, respiratory clinic, baby immunisation, phlebotomy and cardiovascular reviews. Great Barr Medical Centre employs 24 members of staff and provides healthcare to more than 9,000 patients.

Funding was provided by Barclays. Mark Mumford, relationship director at Barclays in Birmingham said: "The new surgery provides top class services to the local community and I am delighted we have been able to support Dr Ratti and Dr Kandola in realising their ambition for the practice."

A number of local professional firms have been involved in the project including Ian Humphrey Quantity Surveyor, Key Construction Limited, and Bundred & Goode Architect. Opening hours are from 7.30am to 10pm Mondays to Saturdays and from 8am to 6pm on Sundays and bank holidays.

Dr Amarjit Kandola, Mark Mumford from Barclays, Jill Kandola, Dr Rianka Ratti and Dr Ratti at the facility

Chelsea's made up to win top award

Award-winning make up artist Chelsea Moore, aged 18

A TALENTED graduate is made up at a top fashion award that promises to be the foundation of a successful career.

Chelsea Moore has been named Midlands Make Up Artist of the year at the Midlands Fashion Awards. The awards ceremony was held at the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra Centre.

The 18-year-old qualified with an IMA Degree from the Central School of Make-Up in Birmingham in February and is now balancing full-time work as an administrator with self-employed make-up work.

Chelsea said: "I was looking for new opportunities and came across the awards so I put myself forward.

"We had to do make-up on a few different models that were going down the catwalk. We were marked on the hygiene of our kit, the range of make-up we had, how we spoke to people and presented ourselves and the final overall look."

She added: "It's going to open so many opportunities so it's made me really happy."

Mother Sharon Moore said: "I'm really proud of her."

Bearing up for new trail of sculptures

SANDWELL is hoping to host a trail of bear sculptures next summer. The Big Sleuth – sleuth is the collective term for a group of bears – follows the success of The Big Hoot, which saw giant decorated owl sculptures feature around Birmingham last summer. Last year's event raised more than half a million pounds for Birmingham Children's Hospital when the owls were auctioned off.

The children's hospital has again teamed up with Wild In Art to commission the bears for next year, which will be decorated by schoolchildren and community groups.

The council is now looking for charities and businesses who would like to support the project or sponsor a bear in Sandwell. Sandwell Council's cabinet member for leisure Councillor Richard Marshall said: "If we can get some bears in Bearwood, we'll also look at having some bears in Sandwell Valley." Anyone interested in supporting the bid should call 0121 569 5377.

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Canal fly-tipping costs top £100,000 in region

TROLLEYS, car tyres and traffic cones – just some of the hundreds of items left in the Black Country's miles of canals.

The Canal and River Trust has revealed the issue across the region, and Birmingham, is costing more than £100,000 to tackle.

Now the trust is calling for help from the public to clamp down on the illegal fly-tipping. Bosses want people to report incidents when they see them.

They say the items left on towpaths across the West Midlands include hundreds of car tyres, household rubbish, traffic cones and fence panels.

In addition to the dangers fly-tipping poses to people and the cost involved in clearing it, the trust is also concerned about the impact it could have on the huge array of wildlife such as otters, water voles and kingfishers that make their homes along the waterways.

Responsibility

Earlier this year, rubbish was photographed after it was dumped on the Jibbet Lane Canal Bridge in Ettingshall. In July, a minibus was found in the Wednesbury Oak Loop canal at the rear of Crane Road canal.

And last month, car thieves dumped a car in the Wyrley and Essington Canal in Wednesfield.

Samantha Bucknall, spokesman for the Canal and River Trust, says: "It's got to the stage where enough is enough, this rubbish is someone else's legal responsibility.

"The money that we have to spend clearing up other people's rubbish is money that could be much better spent caring for our beautiful waterways, improving habitats for wildlife and protecting our wonderful canals for local people and visitors to enjoy. Fly tippers are criminals so we wouldn't encourage people to approach them directly but if they have any information then we would urge them to pass it on to West Midlands Police.

"With help from the local community we can put an end to this dangerous and irresponsible activity which damages the local environment, prevents people from being able to enjoy their local waterways and wastes money which could otherwise be spent improving canals in the area."

Peter Mathews CMG, chairman of the West Midlands Waterways Partnership, said: "Left unchecked fly-tipping would spoil our lovely canals and it needs to stop."

Fly-tipping is a criminal offence that can attract an unlimited fine and up to five years imprisonment.

In 2014/15 there were 1,810 prosecutions against waste offenders in England and over 98 per cent of fly-tipping incidents that resulted in a conviction or fine. The Canal & River Trust is the guardian of 2,000 miles of historic waterways across England and Wales.

A car in the canal at Wednesfield

Rubbish at Jibbet Lane canal bridge

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Witnesses relive horror of boy stuck under bus

WITNESSES have described the horrifying scene after a boy was hit by a bus, leaving him trapped underneath.

The youngster was with schoolfriends on Crankhall Lane in Wednesbury, when he was struck by a bus just after 4pm on Tuesday, November 1.

Diane Stamp who runs nearby Stampy's Cafe was hosting a birthday party for her young daughter when she was alerted to the horrific crash that had taken place outside. "We were having a tea party and I had just gone out for a cigarette when I saw this woman grab her two children and say 'don't look'. And we could hear screaming," said Mrs Stamp.

Running down to the single deck bus with other family members, including her older daughter Kirsty Bibb, the cafe owner couldn't believe the scene before them. "I saw something white under the bus, and when I looked underneath I saw the boy.

Responding

"He was completely trapped. I called to my daughter who called for an ambulance. We just kept talking to him," she said.

The boy didn't appear to be responding, and so Mrs Stamp turned to his school friends who were standing nearby.

"They were just in shock. I asked them if his parents knew, and they said no but that they lived down the road. So I told them to go and get his parents and they ran off.

"There were a lot of people around, traffic was starting to stop around it.

"When the parents arrived and the ambulance I went back to the cafe. I heard in the end they had to pull him out before the fire engines came."

Diane and Kirsty stayed at the cafe late into the night, and provided hot drinks and buffet food to the emergency services.

Other nearby businesses were scouring their external CCTV to see if they could help police with their enquiries.

End of beat for PCSO, at 72

Retiring PCSO Louis Martin-Vale, based at Erdington, with his colleagues

BRITAIN'S oldest police community support officer is set to hang up his hat – at the age of 72.

After a career in the Navy as well as a lengthy stint at Land Rover, Louis Martindale-Vale joined West Midlands Police in 2007 going on to serve the community of Erdington for nearly a decade. He became a regular sight on the high street and would often walk up to 20 miles a day doing his patrols.

But now the grandfather from Yoxall, Staffordshire, has decided to retire having fractured his leg in the summer which has restricted his duties in recent months. Mr Martindale-Vale launched a retail radio system to create a direct link between police and traders which helped tackle crimes such as shoplifting.

Starting with four pieces of kit it now boast 30 handsets.

He has also worked with charity shops to give out handbag bells to prevent purse snatches. "I have loved my time with West Midlands Police and this is one of the toughest decisions I have ever had to make," said Mr Martindale-Vale.

"I have met some wonderful people both within the force and in the community and they will forever be in my heart."

Mr Martindale-Vale joined the Navy aged 17, was a forces boxer and served in the Fleet Air Arm travelling the world as an aircraft engineer.

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Angler fined £571 for lack of rod licence

A MAN from Wednesbury has been fined £571 for fishing during the closed season without a rod licence, Cheltenham Magistrates Court heard.

Martyn Exall, of Kilvert Road, was found fishing at Stanchards Pit on the River Avon in Tewkesbury. He was not able to produce a valid rod licence and was reported for that offence, along with a secondary offence of fishing during the closed season.

A valid road licence is required to fish all waters in England.

Closed season seeks to protect fish during their breeding season, helping to increase fish stocks and secure angling for the future.

Stuart Gamble of the Environment Agency, said: "The majority of anglers fish legally and purchase a rod licence. We invest the money from rod licences back into fisheries improvements, fish stocks and fishing, this is essential for the future of the sport. The minority of anglers that fail to buy a rod licence are cheating their fellow anglers and the future of the sport. In addition rod licence cheats risk a criminal conviction, a significant fine and could lose their fishing equipment."

During 2015-16 the Environment Agency checked more than 62,000 rod licences and prosecuted more than 1,900 anglers for rod and line offences resulting in fines and costs in excess of £500,000.

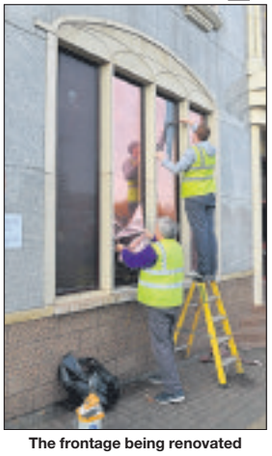
Alex theatre group looks to cut jobs

JOB numbers at Ambassador Theatre Group, which includes the New Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham and Stoke-on-Trent's Regent Theatre and Victoria Hall, are being reduced.

ATG chief executive Mark Cornell has said there will be compulsory redundancies as it looks to free up funding for future growth. They are in addition to voluntary redundancies offered to all staff in its 40 theatres, excluding those working in finance.

Transformation of town temple gets under way

A cherry-picker crane situated outside The Guru Nanak Gurdwara temple, in High Street, Smethwick



The frontage being renovated

WORK is now well under way to transform an iconic town centre temple.

The Guru Nanak Gurdwara Smethwick is currently undergoing extensive refurbishments, starting with a range of improvements to its exterior.

Since the renovations began at the flagship Sikh temple on Smethwick High Street, those passing will probably have seen workmen busy cleaning the building.

A video on the Guru Nanak Gurdwara Smethwick Facebook page also shows workers on a cherry picker steam cleaning the facade of the building. Over the years the stonework has amassed dirt due to the weather, so it was decided that this year the temple would undergo a major revamp to make it 'gleam majestically' explained president of the Guru Nanak Gurdwara Smethwick, Jatinder Singh.

Delighted with progress so far, Mr Singh said: "It is amazing what has been done already. The steam cleaning has really made a difference."

Another key part of the renovations is the removal of the golden domes at the top of the Guru Nanak Gurdwara Smethwick. These are made of brass and gilded with Indian gold, but again the weather has taken its toll and they are losing their shine.

For this reason the current domes are being removed and replaced with new, fibre glass domes, made out of a material which is more durable called GRP. These are also gilded, but will last far longer.

Once the replacement domes have been lifted on to the top of the building, and all the external work has been completed, the refurbishments will move on to the inside of the temple, including redecorating the main hall.

The Guru Nanak Gurdwara Smethwick is Europe's first and biggest Gurdwara, after being purchased and used purely for the purpose of worship by the Sikh community in the UK.

Established in 1961, the Gurdwara sahib is open seven days a week and holds daily programs for local Sikhs and visitors to pray and seek blessings.

It has a weekly congregation of more than 10,000. Bosses at Guru Nanak Gurdwara Smethwick says their services will not be affected by the ongoing work.

On the announcement of the revamp, Mr Singh said: "It is an iconic and flagship building, and we want to do this work to beautify it and ensure it will gleam majestically. We want people to be proud of it."

Immigrant pretended to be night shift worker

AN illegal immigrant posed as a healthcare assistant to get work at a Black Country hospital, a judge was told.

Nigerian-born Bolanle Zakariy – living in Wolverhampton at the time – posed as a friend who had allowed the 41-year-old to take her place on the night shift, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

The imposter was uncovered after being told part way through her period of duty at Sandwell General Hospital that there was nothing more for her to do on September 2, explained Mr Howard Searle, prosecuting.

Bosses realised she did not know the system when she was unable to fill in a time sheet with the number of hours she had worked on the shift.

The defendant bolted when asked for her identity card and was seen running away by a member of staff who spotted her again the following night dealing with a male patient.

This time Zakariy produced an ID card in the name of her friend Muibat Kareem, who was among contract workers provided by Medacs, a healthcare recruitment firm that finds people to fill locum jobs.

It was unclear exactly what she had done on her two shifts. Miss Kareem failed to attend an interview to discuss the incident with Medacs, the court was told. Zakariy, who left her husband and children behind when she came to this country in 2012, was said to be an illegal immigrant whose application for asylum in the UK had been refused.

Zakariy from Walpole Street, West Park, who had a previous conviction for possession of a false Portuguese passport, admitted two charges of fraud and was jailed for eight months by Judge Marcus Tregilgas-Davey. He said: "This was a gross breach of trust."

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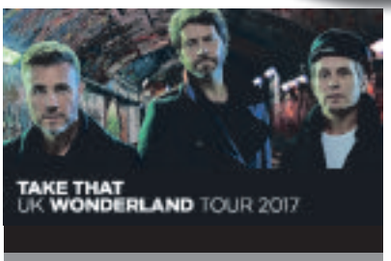

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Short cut for Callum with salon visit

Calum Best, with Carina and other staff members at King's Barbers Club in Wylde Green

THE son of football legend George Best stunned customers in a Sutton Coldfield barber shop when he arrived for a haircut last week.

Calum Best, model and actor, stopped by King's Barbers Club in Wylde Green for a stylish trim before heading off to shoot the Christmas campaign for Burton Menswear.

He said: "Great service, I'll definitely be back as its one of the best haircuts I've ever had. If you guys were in London I'd be there every week."

Kings Barbers Club boast a range of celebrity clients, including various footballers, celebrity mums and TV personalities. Karina, one of the top sylists at the barbers, gave Calum his haircut. She said: "Calum was a very pleasant guy, really easy to get on with ."

Boss in £20m drugs deal

A CATERING boss who turned to dealing ecstasy and cannabis to prop up his failing business was caught out when part of his £20 million drugs haul was intercepted at an Oldbury parcel depot.

Simon Dunmore has been jailed for nine years after he attempted to smuggle shipments of skunk and 70kg of MDMA Hydrochloride into the UK from Holland.

The latter being the raw material used in ecstasy tablets, which came through Coventry Airport.

But his plan was foiled by Border Force officials when seven packages destined for Dunmore's business address in Birmingham, from where he supplies food to cafes, businesses and conferences, were seized.

Drugs which did make it through were flagged up when they arrived at the DPD parcel depot in Broadwell Road, Oldbury.

They were addressed to a firm called WeTakeAnyBox.com trading from the same premises in Harborne Road, Birmingham.

The packages were found to contain more than 100,000 ecstasy tablets. And when the 41-year-old arrived in a VW Transporter van to collect the stash on July 31 last year, police officers pounced and he was arrested.

Dunmore, of St Mary's Row, Moseley, Birmingham, claimed his WTAB.com business stored items for people unable to collect them in person or who had no warehousing space.

But an investigation showed just seven log-ins over a five-month period to the company's website – set up only weeks before the first drugs were seized – while there were no storage facilities at the Harborne Road HQ.

Dunmore admitted six counts of importing drugs at Birmingham Crown Court last Wednesday.

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Inspirational Ted's on song with his life story

THE story of the 'Songaminute Man' is due to be published next in year, his son has confirmed.

The remarkable journey of Ted McDermott, who grew up in the Black Country, will be published by HQ, a division of Harper Collins UK – as told by his son, Simon.

The inspirational 80-year-old who sufferers from Alzheimers, became an internet sensation earlier this year when his son filmed him singing along to Quando, Quando, Quando.

In an extraordinary adventure, Ted, with the help of his son, has raised more than £130,000 for the Alzheimer's Society charity and hit the charts after signing to record label Decca in a whirlwind few months.

The Songaminute Man will tell this remarkable story in full, going into detail on Ted, who was previously a Butlin's Redcoat and a much-loved and talented entertainer, who plied his trade in the clubs of the Black Country before relocating north in the 1960s.

The 80-year-old outside Abbey Road

Ted and Simon, in the car they sing in

Award – Simon with Cliff Richard and Joan Collins

Difference

The news comes after Simon and Ted were awarded for their achievement and presented a Pride of Britain Award for Special Recognition.

Simon said: "Not in my wildest dreams did I ever think that driving Dad to the supermarket and having a singalong would make such a huge difference not only to his own life, but to so many other people around the world.

"Since the video went viral we have received thousands of messages from across the globe – many of which describe how Dad's voice has brought so much joy and inspiration – especially to those families who are also dealing with a loved one's dementia. Being the eldest of 14 children and working as an entertainer for a number of decades, Dad has had a rich and varied life with hundreds of stories to tell. It's my privilege and duty to be able to tell it for him at a time when he can't do it himself."

Rachel Kenny, Senior Commissioning Editor at HQ, said: "This is real home-grown, feel-good, true-life story territory.

"With the evocative nostalgia of 40s to 80s Britain on the one-hand, a touching snapshot of a lifelong father-son bond on the other, plus a nod to modern technology's amazing ability to take that snapshot and use it to inspire and move millions – The Songaminute Man has huge cross-generational appeal and mass-market potential."

The Songaminute Man will be published in autumn 2017 in hardback, ebook and audio download.

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Nearly three quarters of children aged nine don't know how to boil an egg

Start with food children are interested in, such as pizzas, rice and potatoes

Cooking up confidence for kids in the kitchen

By Lisa Salmon

UNLESS you're happy for your children to survive on takeaways or beans on toast after they leave home, you need to make sure they know how to cook.

But while new research shows more than 80% of parents think cooking with their kids is important and teaches them a valuable life skill, only 32% of parents cook with their children more than once a month, and 14% admit they never cook with their kids.

As such, the research by Uncle Ben's 'Ben's Beginner's' campaign, which aims to inspire families to cook together and increase their confidence in the kitchen, found nearly three quarters of children aged nine don't know how to boil an egg, and two fifths are unsure how to peel a potato.

However, parents failing to teach their kids to cook isn't quite as simple as them just not bothering to do it, as the Ben's Beginners Kitchen Confidence study found there were several barriers to parent-child cookery instruction – 41% of parents said they wish they had more time to cook with their children, and 24% said they'd be more inclined to do so if it was less messy.

And as well as time and mess, a quarter of parents said they don't cook with their kids simply because the children aren't interested. However, kids' cooking expert Fiona Hamilton-Fairley stresses that by not learning to cook, children are missing out on essential life skills which could also lead to unhealthy eating habits later in life.

''We know the impact that cooking and eating as a family has on health, but we also know the challenges of today's busy lifestyle and getting kids to be enthusiastic and engaged in the kitchen,'' says Hamilton-Fairley, chief executive of The Kids' Cookery School in London.

"Parents are time-poor, and a lot of them are frightened of the mess, the chaos and the out-of-control moments. And also, there's a certain amount of danger.

"But one day, those kids are going to have to make something in a kitchen, however old they are, so the earlier they start learning how to do it, the better."

She gives the following advice to get kids cooking:

:: Start young

Hamilton-Fairley suggests parents should initially get young children, from the age of about three, to sit on a stool in the kitchen helping out, obviously not with sharp implements, but measuring, touching and tasting.

:: Food origins

Understanding where food comes from is a key part of encouraging children to enjoy cooking, Hamilton-Fairley explains. "Many children don't know where their food comes from, or that some of it, like pasta for instance, is actually made first. They need to understand that food's not just from supermarkets; how it gets there, where it grows or comes from. It adds a bit more excitement to meals for them."

Only 32% of parents cook with their children more than once a month, though 80% think it teaches them a valuable life skill

Fiona Hamilton-Fairley gives advice on family cooking

:: Food they like

It's important to start with food children are interested in, usually pizzas, rice, potatoes etc. "Making a pizza from scratch is very easy," says Hamilton-Fairley, "but it's only easy if you know how, and what to buy. But once they've made it, their pride is huge that they did it themselves, and they'll start to experiment with different ingredients."

:: Keep it simple

Another easy idea is making a rice-based dish, to which all sorts of healthy ingredients can be added, and even making bread with the kids, which she promises is much easier than people think. Some of the best recipes are the simplest, she says, and favourites like spaghetti bolognese are always winners to make and eat with kids.

:: **Safety first**

Obviously, much cooking involves using sharp implements, and Hamilton-Fairley says knowing when a child is responsible enough to use a knife is a judgement individual parents have to make. She suggests many children start using knives safely from around the age of eight. "Know your child, and realise they're going to have to pick up a knife at some point, so it's best you show them how to do it properly and safely," she says.

:: Keep it healthy

"It's very important for parents to teach not just the cooking but the health implications," stresses Hamilton-Fairley, explaining that this might include why fresh food, low-fat, low-sugar and low-salt is important. "Our children are literally growing up living on takeaways, and this is why we have so many health problems."

:: Tasty choices

Hamilton-Fairley says a lot of children are used to bland food, and as they grow, their tastebuds change. By learning to cook themselves, they can include flavours they like and are therefore more likely to eat in their cooking, rather than being forced to eat flavours chosen by their parents. "Once their tastebuds are brought to life and they start having some great tastes on their palate, I think they're more encouraged to cook," says Hamilton-Fairley.

:: Make time

"Turn the telly or the tablets off and make the time to prepare, cook and eat together," advises Hamilton-Fairley. "Some parents are doing way too much – if not everything – in the kitchen, and they're not challenging their children by even asking simple things like can they make some toast. It's very important to do that – we don't want to bring up a generation of kids that can't do anything in the kitchen."

She warns that parents shouldn't force children to cook, as it could ruin their confidence, but advises: "Just try to get into the kitchen together, and realise you're not going to make a gourmet meal at the first attempt, but maybe by the fourth or fifth time you'll be experimenting and really having fun."

For more information visit beginners.unclebens.co.uk

Snuggling up instead of flicking the switch

AS Britain starts to freeze, consumers in the region are shunning nights out in favour of snuggly jumpers and blankets.

In an effort to dodge hefty heating bills, the majority are turning the heating off and putting their jumpers on.

People are hosting alternative nights in, including cocktail evenings, to avoid expensive and chilly nights out.

As the days become colder and nights draw in, new research reveals people are reaching for extra layers, warmer foods and blankets to fight the chill without having to rely on costly heating systems.

The study from TopCashback.co.uk, the cashback and comparison website, finds that the majority (70 per cent) of consumers in the area are holding off turning the heating on and are instead looking to cheaper alternatives to warm them up in an effort to dodge high heating bills.

Consumers are layering up with jumpers (75 per cent), tucking into warmer foods (55 per cent) and snuggling up in blankets (51 per cent) before giving in and putting on the more expensive central heating.

However, even these are not a cost-free solution as consumers are spending on average £79 stocking up on warming comforts.

Furthermore, of those turning to winter warmers, 29 per cent even shell out on a new winter wardrobe costing a staggering £190, £50 more than consumers spent last year.

But despite investing in extra layers, 41 per cent gave in and switched their heating on in October.

Nine per cent are holding out longer than they did in 2015 before giving in and putting the boiler on, perhaps to avoid large bills.

Arguments

The research, of more than 250 adults, reveals that as temperatures drop tempers rise with almost half (47 per cent) disclosing arguments occur when it comes to deciding when to switch the heating on.

Alternatives suggested in the heat of the moment include putting on layers (93 per cent), having a hot drink (41 per cent) and even taking a jog around the house (five per cent).

To avoid the chill, the majority (61 per cent) admit to cancelling plans because it is too cold, with around half (48 per cent) ducking out of a night out once a month.

Other reasons for shunning nights out include feeling too lethargic (51 per cent) and people not being bothered (45 per cent) in the colder months.

With boozy nights out costing consumers £45, more than two-fifths (41 per cent) are also staying at home to save money.

As consumers opt for nights in, whether the heating is on or not, they are saving on average £26 a night.

Three in 10 (30 per cent) are picking up cheaper local takeaways whereas a quarter (25 per cent) are opting to make fakeaways to keep costs down. Some people are even sharing streaming site logins (13 per cent) to avoid the expense of renting a new movie or watching the latest Netflix series.

But a night in does not always mean a quiet night as 45 per cent prefer drinking in the comfort of their own homes with friends and family. People are also enjoying homemade cocktail nights instead of going out to bars and clubs (11 per cent).

Natasha Rachel Smith, consumer affairs editor for TopCashback.co.uk, said: "With energy bills increasing, consumers are turning to low-cost solutions as a rest bite from the cold, as well as side-stepping nights out in favour of staying in.

"Regardless of whether consumers are having a big night in or if they are planning to cuddle up on the sofa, switching energy providers always makes a big difference to monthly outgoings.

"Hundreds of pounds can be saved by changing suppliers and TopCashback offers cashback on top; one member recently saved £300 pounds by switching."

Top winter warmers

1. Jumpers or extra layers (75%)
2. Hats, scarves and gloves (73%)
3. Boots (60%)
4. Warmer foods (55%)
5. Blankets (51%)
6. Hot water bottles (36%)
7. Thermals (24%)
8. Draft excluders (22%)
9. Electric heaters (16%)
10. Electric blankets (14%)

Mighty contribution to liaising with area's GPs

BORN and bred in the Black Country, Donna Mighty's driving ambition is to make a difference to her community.

In her new role with Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust (SWBH), she feels that now she has the opportunity to do just that.

Donna, aged 42, started her job as the Assistant Primary Care Liaison Manager at SWBH in September this year and she said she already feels at home.

She explained: "My role involves close contact with GPs in Sandwell and West Birmingham so that they have all the support they need to refer their patients to our hospitals in a timely manner.

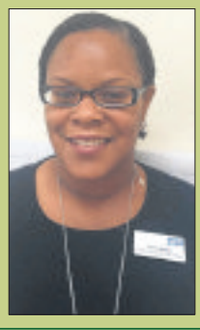
"We communicate with GPs regularly so they are fully aware of the pathways across the Trust. This is very important as it will help speed up treatment for patients and make a significant difference to them."

NHS HEROES

ONCE again we focus some of our time on the quiet heroes of the NHS, from a wide variety of backgrounds doing a wide variety of jobs.

Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust is one of the Black Country's largest NHS organisations. It employs 7,500 people, many of whom live locally. Last year, the trust provides care from 150 locations.

This week we highlight:
DONNA MIGHTY
Assistant Primary Care Liaison Manager



Preparation

Donna was a civil servant for seven years before she took a break to have her daughter. She then started her career in the NHS in 2008 to look after a medical records, clinic preparation and outpatient booking team.

"This gave me a good insight into the NHS, and inspired me to return in 2015 after a two-year break," she said.

She then worked for Sandwell and West Birmingham Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) as Primary Care Contracts Officer, which enabled her to work closely with GPs.

She said: "It was a great job. I have learned a lot about working with GPs to deliver care to the community.

"I really loved the job at the CCG, but missed the buzz that an acute environment can offer. I really enjoy helping patients, even if it is just giving them directions to navigate our hospital sites. Anything I can do to help makes me feel great."

Within a month, Donna said she already feels she has made a difference.

She said: "Just last week, we went to see a new surgery which has just opened in Sandwell, to speak to the GP about support that we can offer and how we can all work together.

The GP was very happy to see us and we have already planned to offer community services to patients of this surgery.

"It was very promising and we are excited about the future."

Donna's ultimate goal is to see patients have easier access to health care services.

She said: "It's all about making sure that patients receive the right treatment at the right time in the right place. It's not an easy task but I believe that with good planning, we can achieve this."

When asked about working at SWBH, Donna smiled and said: "Although I haven't been here long, I already feel part of the team. Everyone has been so friendly and supportive. SWBH is a special place for me. I was actually born at Hallam hospital, which is Sandwell Hospital now.

"My mother was a nurse here and she worked at City Hospital too. My sister and daughter were also born here.

"This really is my local hospital trust and I am happy to be here to contribute and make a difference to patients."

Donna's hero is her mother. She said: "My mother has taught me many lessons, and one of them is integrity. I do everything to my best ability and if I make a mistake, I will admit and fix it.

"I put pride into my work and always give 100 per cent."

Donna lives in Oldbury with her partner and their daughter. She said: "My family is my top priority and without their support, I don't think I would be where I am today."

Couple's joy as hospital backs down over drug

A COUPLE from Tipton are claiming victory after a hospital backed down on giving medication which made their daughter vomit.

Gareth and Jennifer Payne, complained after their asthmatic daughter Hollie, aged two, was one of many youngsters made ill as after taking the non-soluble version of the steroid prednisolone.

Hollie has been a regular patient at Russells Hall Hospital at Dudley, where doctors had limited the use of the soluble version – which is 30 times more expensive than the tablet – in March this year, only giving it to patients in 'exceptional clinical circumstances'.

Mrs Payne said that many youngsters, including Hollie, were given a tablet that had been crushed and soaked in water, adding: "When the tablets are crushed they become like chalk and grit and it made the children vomit within seconds. It had to keep being reissued until they kept it down – these children were already upset because they were poorly, it was adding to their distress."

The couple launched a petition which attracted more than 200 signatures.

However Dr Paul Harrison, acting chief executive of the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, said the decision had already been made to revert to soluble-only prednisolone in paediatric areas as a recent audit revealed 'some younger children find it difficult to tolerate'.

Mr Payne said: "It's a really good result, I'm pleased the hospital has taken swift action."

FOCUS ON TIPTON

Local hero Bully opens up about life on and off pitch

IT'S one of the famous Black Country stories. A Tipton lad, by the name of Stephen George Bull went, in the space of a few years, from working in a builders' yard to being in the England squad that reached the World Cup semi final.

And now the Wolves legend and record goalscorer is telling all about his remarkable career in a new book. Bully: Forever Wolves includes untold tales and unseen pictures from his three decades at Molineux.

The current Wolves vice-president, who scored 306 goals in gold and black, joined Wolves in November 1986 and the book will be launched on November 16 to coincide with the anniversary.

Bully tells of how he nearly died on a pre-season tour, how close he came to getting the Wolves manager's job – and what really happened between him and Gary Lineker.

Bully tells of how he didn't want to leave Albion, whose ex-manager Ron Saunders famously discarded him.

He said: "It's been, you wouldn't believe, 30 years since I went to Wolves. It's more of a reflective look on the last three decades. I think everybody knows what I've done with my goals, but they don't know what I'm doing now and what I did in between."

By David Banner

Bully visited John Price Printers in Bilston to see the pages fresh in print.

"It's absolutely beautiful and the printers have done a cracking job," he added. "I was amazed with the cover and thought that's good the way they've done it."

The book has been produced in association with the Express & Star and Wolves.

Paul Burns, business development manager at John Price Printers in Bilston which has been in existence since the 1880s, added: "It seemed like the perfect fit for us to print a book about a Wolverhampton legend.

"The book has got a great look to it and has got loads of images that people may not have seen in colour before."

With copies of his book being printed at John Price Limited, Bilston, is Tipton's born and bred hero, Steve Bull

Society's bake off raises cash

Caryl Bridgewater awarded by boss Richard Newton

A BUILDING society's Great Tipton Bake Off contest has whipped up vital funds for its nominated charity, Wolverhampton-based Promise Dreams.

The Tipton and Coseley Building Society staff put their culinary know-how to the test. Staff from branches in Bilston, Coseley, Sedgley and Tipton were invited to bring their homemade cakes into work– colleagues paid for a slice and voted for their favourite.

Caryl Bridgwater, from the society's Sedgley branch has been crowned master baker, wowing colleagues with her Rose and Pistachio Cake and Japanese Strawberry Shortbread.

Daniel Smith, corporate partnership manager at Promise Dreams, said: "Having the support from Tipton and Coseley Building Society will not only mean that we can continue to make dreams come true for seriously and terminally ill children but also helps us to spread the word about the fantastic work we do in the local area as well as nationally."

Richard Newton, the Tipton's chief executive, added: "We launched the

fast theticket

Full Throttle

Show that needs no costumes – Page 23

For full listings see **Express & Star** every Friday

Bellagio
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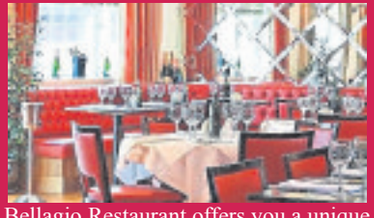

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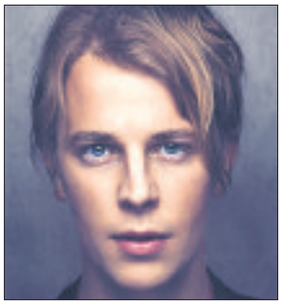
Rachmaninov's Symphony No1

Tuesday, 7.30pm
Symphony Hall, Birmingham
Vladimir Ashkenazy conducts the Philharmonic Orchestra for the Rachmaninov, and acclaimed young pianist Alice Sara Ott (pictured) takes on Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No 1.
See **thsh.co.uk**

Tom Odell



Tomorrow, 7pm
O2 Academy, Birmingham
Singer-songwriter from West Sussex, who had an instant impact with hit single Another Love in 2012, has sold out this date on the back of a new album.
See **academymusicgroup.com/o2academybirmingham**

The 3rd UK Blues Challenge

Saturday, 7pm
Robin 2, Bilston
Brum-based blues belter Rebecca Downes (pictured) features with Willie & The Bandits, Dove & Boweevil and Kaz Hawkins in a battle of the blues with a trophy for the winner.
See **therobin.co.uk**

Frank Carter and the Rattlesnakes

Tuesday, 7pm
The Slade Rooms, W'ton
The punk-influenced rock band with a fearsome live reputation will get this intimate venue rocking to the sound of their forthcoming Modern Ruin album including new single Lullaby.
See **www.wolvescivic.co.uk**

ROCK & METAL

Oasis v The Stone Roses
Tonight, £8
The River Rooms,
Stourbridge,
DY8 1JN.
Call 01384 397177
or 07986 577 661

A Vision Of Elvis
Tonight,
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

Architects
Tonight,
The Institute, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

UK Foo Fighters Tribute – Nothing's Set In Stone Tour
Tonight,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Pearl Jam U.K. (Tribute): Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Ten
Tonight,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

The Total Stone Roses + The Natural Emotions
Tonight, £7 - £10
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

Roxy Magic – UKs No1 Tribute to Roxy Music and Bryan Ferry
Tomorrow, £8
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

The Floyd Effect – The Pink Floyd Tribute Show
Tomorrow,
Courtyard Hereford, HR4 9JR.
Call 01432 340555

The Solid Gold Rock n Roll Show
Tomorrow,
Victoria Hall, Hanley,
Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 3AD.
Call 0844 871 7649

Absolute Bowie
Tomorrow, £14
The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent,
ST1 1DR.
Call 01782 214991

Stone Broken
Tomorrow,
The Slade Rooms,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP.
Call 01902 552122

New Model Army
Sun,
The Institute, Digbeth,
Birmingham,
B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

Frank Carter & The Rattlesnakes...
Tue,
The Slade Rooms,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP.
Call 01902 552122

Queen Extravaganza
Wed,
Victoria Hall, Hanley,
Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 3AD.
Call 0844 871 7649

Bay City Rollers starring Les McKeown
Wed,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Courteeners
Thu,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

CLASSICAL

Spectacular Classics
Tomorrow, £16.50 - £42.50
Symphony Hall, The International Convention Centre, Birmingham.
B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Opera Anywhere presents The Magic Flute – Mozart
Tomorrow,
The Birmingham Botanical Gardens & Glasshouses,
B15 3TR.
Call 0121 454 1860

Chandos: The Friends 25th Anniversary Concert
Sun,
Malvern Theatres, WR14 3HB.
Call 01684 892277

Hemantika
Sun,
The Crescent Theatre,
Brindleyplace, Birmingham,
B16 8AE.
Call 0121 643 5858

FOLK, COUNTRY & ACOUSTIC

Forever in Blue Jeans
Tomorrow, £19.50
Huntingdon Hall, CrownGate Shopping Centre, Worcester,
WR1 3LD.
Call 01905 611427

Traditional Irish Music
Mon,
Spotted Dog, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B12 0NH.
Call 0121 772 3822

Jack Garratt
Tue,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

Foster & Allen in Concert
Wed,
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

Vin Garbutt
Wed, £12
The Red Lion, Birmingham,
B14 7LY.
Call 0121 444 2803

Jon Boden
Thu,
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,
SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

CLUBBING

Decade Of Muzik Hertz meets Philly Blunt
Tonight, 11pm - tomorrow, 5am
The Rainbow Venues, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B12 0LD.
Call 0121 753 1818

POP

80's Mania
Tomorrow,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 42 92 12

Voulez-Vous
Tomorrow, £26
The Palace Theatre, Redditch,
B98 8AE.
Call 01527 65203

Julia Fordham – Live By Request
Tue,
MAC, Cannon Hill Park,
Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

JAZZ, SOUL, BLUES, REGGAE & MOTOWN

Clare Teal
Sun,
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

Jazz Tuesdays
Tue,
Spotted Dog, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B12 0NH.
Call 0121 772 3822

LatinMotion presents Del Camino
Thu,
The Jam House, Birmingham,
B31QU.
Call 0121 200 3030

Alabama 3 (celebrating their 20 years anniversary)
Thu,
The Institute, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

ARTS & CULTURE

Masterclass: Dynamics Of Colour
Wed,
MAC, Cannon Hill Park,
Birmingham,
B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

COMEDY

Comedy 42 – November
Tonight,
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

Paul Foot: 'Tis a Pity She's a Piglet
Tonight,
Glee Club Birmingham, The Arcadian Center, Birmingham,
B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

Joel Dommet
Tonight,
The Slade Rooms,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP.
Call 01902 552122

Nish Kumar: Actions Speak Louder Than Words, Unless You Shout the Words Real Loud
Tonight,
MAC, Cannon Hill Park,
Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Al Murray – Lets Go Backwards Together
Tomorrow,
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,
ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

Henning Wehn – Westphalia Is Not An Option
Tomorrow,
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

Jim Davidson
Sun,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Sean Lock – Keep It Light
Sun, £25
Birmingham Hippodrome,
B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

Omid Djalili: Schmuck For A Night
Tue, £24
Huntingdon Hall, CrownGate Shopping Centre, Worcester,
WR1 3LD. Call 01905 611427

Kevin Bloody Wilson
Tue, £29.50
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,
SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

RH Comedy Presents
Thu,
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

Nathan Caton
Thu,
The Slade Rooms,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP.
Call 01902 552122

THEATRE

Dirty Dancing
Tonight - tomorrow,
Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent,
ST1 1AP. Call 0844 871 7649

Ellen Kent's Nabucco
Tonight,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham,
B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Waiting for Godot
Tonight - Thu,
Hall Green Little Theatre,
Birmingham,
B27 7RY.
Call 0121 707 1874

Kiss Me Kate
Tonight - tomorrow, £16.50
Birmingham Hippodrome,
B5 4TB.
Call 0844 338 5000

The Commitments
Mon - Thu,
Regent Theatre,
Stoke-on-Trent,
ST1 1AP.
Call 0844 871 7649

An Evening With Michael Parkinson
CANCELLED
Mon, New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham,
B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Les Contes D'Hoffman
Tue, £16 - £17
Ludlow Assembly Rooms,
SY8 1AZ.
Call 01584 878141

Our House
Tue - Thu,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 42 92 12

The Singular Exploits of Sherlock Holmes
Wed,
The Birmingham & Midland Institute,
B3 3BS.
Call 0121 236 3591

Looking For John
Wed - Thu, £10 - £13.50
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
Library of Birmingham,
B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

A Christmas Carol – Junior Production 2016
Thu,
Ruddock Performing Arts Centre,
King Edward's School,
Birmingham, B15 2UA.
Call 0121 472 9585

Psychic Sally – Call Me Psychic
Thu,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Shakespeare Schools Festival 2016
Thu,
The Crescent Theatre,
Brindleyplace, Birmingham,
B16 8AE.
Call 0121 643 5858

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Nothing to lose but inhibitions

They can keep their hat on – the cast of The Full Monty, the musical about steel workers who become strippers

THE hit musical about jobless Yorkshire steel workers who find a revealing way to make money, The Full Monty, arrives at Birmingham Hippodrome on Monday for a six day run.

Nearly 20 years ago the movie about six out-of-work Sheffield steelmen, left with nothing to lose but there inhibitions, went on to be one of the most successful British films. The story still resonates in an age of job insecurity.

Simon Beaufoy, the Oscar and BAFTA-winning writer, adapted his own screenplay for the hilarious and heartfelt stage production, which features iconic songs by Donna Summer, Hot Chocolate and Tom Jones.

This touring production of the former West End hit is led by Gary Lucy as Gaz, with Andrew Dunn as Gerald, Louis Emerick as Horse, Chris Fountain as Guy and Kai Owen as Dave. Anthony Lewis will now be playing the role of Lomper as Joe Absolom had to withdraw due to filming commitments.

Anthony Lewis is best known as Marc Reynolds in Emmerdale. Gary Lucy played Danny Pennant in EastEnders, DS Will Fletcher in The Bill, Kyle Pascoe in Footballer's Wives and Luke Morgan in Hollyoaks, and was a runner-up in Dancing on Ice.

Andrew Dunn is best known as Tony in Dinnerladies, while Louis Emerick played Mick Johnson in the Merseyside soap Brookside and PC Walsh in the long-running sitcom Last of the Summer Wine.

Chris Fountain played Tommy Duckworth in Coronation Street and was a runner-up of Dancing on Ice. Kai Owen is best known for his roles in Torchwood and Hollyoaks.

Director Jack Ryder, who is best known for playing Jamie Mitchell in EastEnders, also directed the national touring production of hit show Calendar Girls.

For tickets see www.birmingham hippodrome.com or call 0844 338 5000.

Is Our House up your street?

BILSTON Operatic Company return to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre with the Madness musical Our House, following the success of last year's production of Hairspray.

The show, which starts a five-day run on Tuesday, combines a witty romance with the energetic songs of Madness. It follows Joe Casey who, on his 16th birthday, takes Sarah, the girl of his dreams, out on their first date. In an effort to impress her with bravado, he breaks into a building site overlooking his home on Casey Street. The police turn up at which point Joe's life splits into two – Good Joe, who stays to help, and Bad Joe, who flees.

Our House won the Olivier Award For Best New Musical in 2003 and ran for 10 months at London's Cambridge Theatre. It features the songs It Must Be Love, Baggy Trousers, Night Boat To Cairo, House Of Fun, Driving In My Car and, of course, Our House.

This amateur production is directed and choreographed by Laura Canadine. Birmingham Ormiston Academy student Ben Evans from Lower Penn plays Joe and playing Sarah is Abi Strudwicke, of Codsall Wood, who is head girl at Thomas Telford School. Both are pictured left.

Mike James and Sue Towler play Joe's parents with the cast of talented local performers also including Tom Withers, Matt Coombes, Jordan Barrett, Katie Harrison, Jacob Kholi and Al Smith.

For tickets see grandtheatre.co.uk or call 01902 429212.

Bilston Operatic Society's productions at the Grand in recent years have also included Hairspray Peter Pan, Annie and Hello, Dolly!

Boogie nights and much more at Robin

SOUL, blues, southern boogie and jazz-rock are all on the agenda at Bilston's Robin 2 over the next week.

On Friday 70s British disco favourites The Real Thing and Heatwave team up at the Mount Pleasant venue.

Top blues acts compete in the 3rd UK Blues Challenge on Saturday and former Amen Corner frontman Andy Fairweather Low brings his Lowriders for a soul night on Sunday.

Florida rock legends Molly Hatchet visit on Monday, the Danny Giles Band lead a triple bill of blues on Tuesday and jazz-rock pioneers Soft Machine play on Wednesday.

Get the Sweats with soulful sounds

KEY gigs this week include the return of acclaimed live act Nathaniel Rateliff & The Nite Sweats with stomping soulful sounds at the O2 Academy in Birmingham on Monday.

You can take in reggae classics at the O2 Institute in Digbeth on Saturday when the late Bob Marley's backing band The Wailers spread One Love vibes.

Or get your fill of punky J rock when Tokyo outfits Mutant Monster and Touch My Secret hit the Hare and Hounds in Kings Heath on Monday. That venue also hosts The Wave Pictures on Monday in the other room and ex-Icicle Works frontman Ian McNabb on Tuesday.

Big hair and great tunes from the 80s

BIG hair, check; shoulder pads, check; neon colours, check; so it's time to return to the 1980s.

80's Mania Show is Europe's official 1980s multi-tribute concert, with organisers declaring: "If you love the 80s – do not miss this show."

The show at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre on Saturday features 25 chart-topping pop icons recreated with live band and awesome dancers.

They perform more than 35 hits with tributes to Duran Duran, Spandau Ballet, Kim Wilde, Culture Club, Madonna, Wham!, The Human League, Adam Ant, Madness and many more.

Sandwell Chronicle Thursday, November 10, 2016

CHOICE

Darcey Bussell

Strictly Come Dancing (BBC1, 6.55pm)

For many fans, Halloween Week is one of the highlights of the Strictly calendar, and it certainly delivered this year. The wardrobe and makeup departments let their imaginations run away with them, although arguably the biggest shock came when Ed Balls scored an eight for his mad-scientist-themed cha cha (followed closely by Danny Mac proving he is fallible after all when he stumbled in his foxtrot). But now another Strictly milestone is looming as next week, the show will be coming to us live from Blackpool, and none of the eight remaining celebs will want to miss out on a trip to ballroom dancing's spiritual home. But who will impress judges and the voting public?

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.15** Saturday Kitchen Live. **10.45** The Lord Mayor's Show. **12.05** Football Focus. **12.35** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Four Nations Rugby League. **2.00** Live International Rugby Union. Scotland v Australia. **4.30** Escape to the Country. (R) **5.15** Celebrity Mastermind. (R) **5.45** BBC News. **5.55** Regional Programme.

6.05 Pointless Celebrities. Edition focusing on the subject of music, with Sinitta, Jaymi Hensley, Vernie Bennett, Easther Bennett, Claire Richards, Ian 'H' Watkins, Tony Christie and Ben Adams. (R)

6.55 Strictly Come Dancing. The eight remaining couples show off their skills on the dance-floor, as Len Goodman, Darcey Bussell, Bruno Tonioli and Craig Revel Horwood appraise their form.

8.10 The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins. Two pairs of complete strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject.

9.00 The Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance. Huw Edwards presents coverage of the annual event from the Royal Albert Hall in the presence of the Queen and other members of the royal family. Michael Ball and Alfie Boe, Laura Mvula, Birdy and Alexander Armstrong perform alongside the Royal Air Force Squadronaires and the Band of HM Royal Marines. Together they pay tribute to the victims of conflict, from the First World War to the present day, in a festival that also includes the traditional two-minute silence as thousands of poppy petals fall from the venue's ceiling.

10.40 BBC News; Weather.; National Lottery Update.

11.00 Room 101 – Extra Storage. Frank Skinner invites Vernon Kay, Kelly Hoppen and Miles Jupp to discuss their pet hates, which include litter louts, toilet-roll covers and loud noises. (R)

11.40 Asian Provocateur: Mum's American Dream. Romesh Ranganathan reunites with his mum in Los Angeles, where they visit the set of a US soap, go undercover with a private detective, and attend a Comic Con. Last in the series.

12.10 Film: The Rebound. (2009) **1.40** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.45** BBC News.

BBC2

6.05 Film: Government Girl. (1943) **7.35** The Women's Football Show. (R) **8.10 Film:** Suspicion. (1941) **9.45** Secret Britain. (R) **10.45** The Good Cook. (R) **11.15** Hairy Bikers' Best of British. (R) **12.15** The Best Dishes Ever. (R) **12.45** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **1.30** Talking Pictures. **2.15 Film:** Guess Who's Coming to Dinner. (1967) Comedy drama, starring Spencer Tracy. **4.00** Flog It! **5.00** Live International Rugby Union. Wales v Argentina (Kick-off 5.30pm).

7.30 International Rugby Union. England v South Africa. Jason Mohammad presents highlights from Twickenham, where the autumn international schedule got under way with this match against the touring Springboks. England coach Eddie Jones picked the uncapped Sale full-back Mike Haley, Saracens fly-half Alex Lozowski, Bath lock Charlie Ewels, Harlequins prop Kyle Sinckler, Wasps forward Nathan Hughes and Worcester centre Ben Te'o for this series. Northampton flanker Tom Wood also returned to the squad amid an injury crisis in the back row, with Gloucester pair Ben Morgan and Jonny May, alongside Bath second row Dave Attwood, also coming back into the fold. With analysis from Jeremy Guscott and commentary by Alastair Eykyn and Brian Moore.

8.30 Balletboyz – Young Men. Feature-length dance film without dialogue shot on location in northern France, featuring dancers from the BalletBoyz company.

9.30 Film: Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom. (2013) Premiere. Biopic of the South African political leader, following his rise to become one of the most prominent activists against the apartheid regime. His campaign results in his imprisonment, with wife Winnie continuing the struggle. His release after several decades brings fresh challenges, as he becomes the country's first democratically elected president and must find a way to build a united nation.

11.50 Film: Red Tails. (2012) Black US fighter pilots battle both the German air force and racism in their own ranks. Fact-based Second World War drama, starring Terrence Howard.

1.50 This Is BBC Two. **5.45** The A to Z of TV Gardening. (R)

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Sooty. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Super 4. (R) **7.15** Oddbods. (R) **7.25** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.30** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Looped. **8.30** Scrambled!: Be Cool, Scooby-Doo! **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** Wild Australia with Ray Mears. (R) **11.50** Judge Rinder. (R) **12.50** ITV News; Weather. **1.00** Cash Trapped. (R) **1.55** This Time Next Year. (R) **2.55** Big Star's Little Star. (R) **4.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. **4.20** The Chase. (R) **5.25** Regional Programme ; Weather.**5.40** ITV News; Weather.

6.00 Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. Ben Shephard presents a celebrity edition of the quiz, in which Johnny Vegas, Linda Robson and Ann Widdecombe answer questions to win turns on an arcade-style machine.

7.00 Meet the Parents. Dating show, hosted by Holly Willoughby.

8.00 The X Factor. Dermot O'Leary hosts as the live show phase continues, and the tension mounts as the remaining contestants are put through yet another set of nail-biting performances. As always, Louis Walsh, Sharon Osbourne, Nicole Scherzinger and Simon Cowell take their seats at the judges desks, as the would-be stars sing in front of the panel – and the nation. The celebrity panellists will all be hoping the acts they've mentored will be throwing themselves into the music as the contest's conclusion looms ever closer.

9.30 The Jonathan Ross Show. The host is joined by TV presenter Jeremy Clarkson, singer Robbie Williams, comedian Micky Flanagan and Little Mix.

10.30 ITV News; Weather.

10.45 Film: The Bourne Ultimatum. (2007) The amnesiac assassin regains his memory, just as a CIA director sets in motion a plan to kill him. Spy thriller sequel, starring Matt Damon, Julia Stiles and David Strathairn.

12.50 Jackpot247. **3.00** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 Gillette World Sport. **6.40** Mobil 1 The Grid. **7.10** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** The Morning Line. **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. **11.25** The Simpsons. (R) **12.30** Deal or No Deal. **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. **4.00** Jamie's Super Food. (R) **4.30** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.35** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun.

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 China: Between Clouds and Dreams. The second in this series of intimate films continues the stories of Chinese schoolchildren, mothers and journalists investigating the effects of climate change across this vast country. Tibetan monks discover the threat to the snow leopard's habit caused by a planned dam on the Yangtze river, four schoolchildren investigate why people in their town are suffering from mystery illnesses and a young mother takes on the might of a factory which she believes is causing cancer amongst local inhabitants.

8.00 Formula 1: Brazilian Grand Prix Qualifying – Highlights. Steve Jones presents action from the battle for pole position in the 20th round of the season, which takes place at Interlagos in Sao Paulo. Mercedes driver Nico Rosberg secured the front position on the grid at last year's race, as he finished 0.078 seconds faster than his teammate Lewis Hamilton.

9.30 Film: Non-Stop. (2014) An air marshal on a transatlantic flight receives mysterious messages in which an anonymous terrorist threatens to kill one passenger every 20 minutes unless a ransom is paid. He searches the plane for the criminals responsible, but his investigation is threatened when he is framed as being the mastermind behind the plot. Thriller, starring Liam Neeson.

11.40 Film: Underworld: Awakening. (2012) Vampire Selene awakes from cryonic suspension to battle mutant werewolves and a plot to annihilate the undead. Action fantasy, with Kate Beckinsale.

1.20 Hollyoaks. (R) **3.25** Phil: Secret Agent Down Under. (R) **4.20** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R) **4.30** Deal or No Deal. (R) **5.15** Wedding Town. **5.45** Motor Sport: 2016 FIA World Endurance Championship.

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.10** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.45** House Doctor. (R) **11.45 Film:** A Bride for Christmas. (2012) Romantic drama, with Arielle Kebbel and Andrew W Walker. **1.25 Film:** Christmas Angel. (2012) Family drama, starring Della Reese. **3.30** FIA Formula E Live: Marrakech. The Marrakech ePrix. **5.30 Film:** 2012. (2009) Disaster movie, starring John Cusack.

8.25 NCIS: New Orleans. A naval psychologist is found dead in close proximity to the route of a traditional New Orleans second-line funeral procession. When the agents investigate, they discover the victim had been secretly photographing the parade, and LaSalle is attacked by an unknown assailant. Delving further into the mysteries surrounding the case, the team uncovers a complex plot involving the founder of New Orleans, grave robbers, and what seems to be a dead man walking.

9.20 NCIS: New Orleans. A US Navy lieutenant dies from arsenic poisoning while secretly visiting an Army general's hotel room. When an old friend asks Pride to keep the subsequent investigation under wraps, it becomes clear the woman may have been killed to cover up an affair that could jeopardise a war hero's chances of securing a position with Homeland Security. However, when it emerges the victim was also investigating corruption among port authorities, involving the theft of millions of dollars from the US Government, a new motive for murder becomes clear.

10.15 That's So 1985. A look at events in 1985 using news, pop and TV archive clips to provide a reminder of the time, including the Live Aid concerts prompted by the famine in Ethiopia. (R)

11.15 Football on 5: Goal Rush. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce all the goals from the games in Leagues One and Two, including Coventry City v Scunthorpe United, and Luton Town v Accrington Stanley.

12.15 SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **3.10** The Yorkshire Vet. Julian Norton tries to save a much-loved farm dog. (R) **4.00** Storm Force: Winter Road Rescue. The work of road recovery experts during the winter months. (R) **4.50** House Doctor. (R) **5.40** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 India's Frontier Railways **8.00** The Incredible Human Journey **9.00** Deep Water **10.50** Jeff Lynne's ELO at Hyde Park **12.15** Tubular Bells: The Mike Oldfield Story **1.15** Top of the Pops: 1982 **2.35** Jeff Lynne's ELO at Hyde Park **3.55** Close

ITV2

11.30 You've Been Framed: The Next Generation! **12.30 Film:** The Lake House (2006) **1.30** FYI Daily **1.35 Film:** The Lake House (2006) **2.35 Film:** Honey (2003) **3.35** FYI Daily **3.40 Film:** Honey (2003) **4.40 Film:** Beethoven's 2nd (1993) **5.40** FYI Daily **5.45 Film:** Beethoven's 2nd (1993) **6.25 Film:** Arthur (2011) **7.25** FYI Daily **7.30 Film:** Arthur (2011) **8.30** Scorpion **9.30** The Xtra Factor Live **10.00** Celebrity Juice **11.00** Prank Pad **1.00** Family Guy **1.30** American Dad! **2.00** Bordertown **2.25** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

12.05 Film: Columbo: The Most Dangerous Match (1973) **1.40** Inspector Morse **4.00** Midsomer Murders **7.55** Doc Martin **9.00** Endeavour **11.00** The Blonde Bombshell **1.10** Wycliffe **2.10** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

12.45 Snooker: Champion of Champions Live. The opening session of the final at the Ricoh Arena, Coventry. **5.20** Storage Wars: Texas **5.45** Storage Wars **6.45** Snooker: Champion of Champions Live. The second session of the final at the Ricoh Arena, Coventry. **11.15 Film:** Born to Raise Hell (2010) **12.15** FYI Daily **12.20 Film:** Born to Raise Hell (2010) **1.20** Monster Carp **2.20** Tommy Cooper **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

11.00 Black-ish **12.00** The Goldbergs **1.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **2.00 Film:** Aliens in the Attic (2009) **3.45** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **4.00** The Big Bang Theory: Wizard Weekend **9.00 Film:** Magic Mike (2012) **11.15** Gogglebox **12.20** Rude Tube **1.25** The Inbetweeners **2.35** New Girl **4.00** The Mindy Project **4.45** Revenge

Film4

11.00 The Last Frontier (1955) **1.00** Home Alone (1990) **3.05** The Spy Next Door (2010) **4.55** Carry On Spying (1964) **6.45** I, Robot (2004) **9.00** Gladiator (2000) **12.00** 48 Hrs (1982) **1.55** Sorority Row (2009) **4.00** Close

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CHOICE

Eileen O'Higgins

My Mother and Other Strangers (BBC1, 9pm)
Take a trip back in time with this new drama to Northern Ireland during the Second World War. Hattie Morahan heads the cast as Rose, the matriarch of the Coyne family. English born and bred, she followed her husband Michael to his home in Moybeg, where she has since raised three children. Wartime seems exciting to their young son Francis, whose friend tries to persuade him to explore the local air base dump, while teenage daughter Emma falls for one of the American airmen stationed there. But it's Captain Dreyfuss who will have the biggest impact on the family's lives when he and Rose form an undeniable bond that threatens the future happiness of her loved ones.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.20** Remembrance Sunday: The Cenotaph. **12.30** The People Remember. **1.30** BBC News; Weather. **1.45** Live Four Nations Rugby League. England v Australia (Kick-off 2.00pm). **4.15** Planet Earth II. (R) **5.15** Songs of Praise. **5.50** BBC News.
6.10 Regional Programme.
6.15 Countryfile: A Remembrance Sunday Special. Helen Skelton joins a cycle ride across Northern France commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, and discovers how bicycles were used on the front line in the First World War. John Craven discovers how tractors played a role in the development of tanks, Ellie Harrison visits the National Memorial Arboretum, and Jules Hudson reveals how the countryside helped one soldier's recovery. Including weather for the week ahead.
7.15 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman present the results of last night's show. The professional dancers give a performance for Remembrance Day and Andre Rieu performs Hallelujah.
8.00 Planet Earth II. Animals that live in mountain ranges, including rival snow leopards, grizzly bears using trees to shed their winter fur, and golden eagles hunting over snow-capped peaks.
9.00 My Mother and Other Strangers. New series. Drama set in Northern Ireland during the Second World War following the fortunes of a family living near a United States Army Air Force airfield. Hattie Morahan stars.
10.00 BBC News.
10.20 Regional Programme.
10.30 The Selfless Sikh: Faith on the Frontline. Documentary following Sikh aid worker Ravi Singh, who was inspired by his faith's teachings to travel to Iraq and provide support for Yazidi families fleeing persecution by Isis.
11.00 DIY SOS at Great Ormond Street Hospital. The DIY SOS team embarks on a special challenge, transporting Chris Beardshaw's Chelsea Flower Show garden to the Great Ormond Street Hospital, and rebuilding it on the roof. (R)
12.00 Citizen Khan. (R) **12.30** Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.35** BBC News.

BBC2

6.30 Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) **7.15** Life in a Cottage Garden with Carol Klein. (R) **7.45** Greatest Gardens. (R) **8.15** Countryfile Ramble for BBC Children In Need. (R) **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.00** The Good Cook. (R) **11.30** Tom Kerridge's Proper Pub Food. (R) **12.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** International Rugby Union. (R) **2.00** Live Tennis: ATP World Tour Finals. Coverage of the opening day at the O2 in London. **5.00** Flog It! (R) **5.30** Remembrance Sunday: The Cenotaph Highlights.
6.30 Film: Miss Potter. (2006) Victorian writer and illustrator Beatrix Potter is unable to find a firm willing to give her book based on a character called Peter Rabbit a chance, until a timid publisher with whom she falls in love takes on her project. Biographical period drama, starring Renee Zellweger, Ewan McGregor, Emily Watson and Barbara Flynn.
8.00 Operation Gold Rush with Dan Snow. The team arrives at Dawson City, and sets up a mining camp in the gold fields. They have just five days to find gold using only traditional 19th-century methods. Last in the series.
9.00 Will Britain Ever Have a Black Prime Minister? David Harewood presents a documentary examining the obstacles that make it difficult for black people to rise to positions of power and influence in British society.
10.00 Black Is the New Black. Naomi Campbell, Dizzee Rascal, David Harewood, Tinie Tempah, Trevor McDonald and Alesha Dixon share their thoughts on growing up, touching on family, school and the working world.
10.30 Later – with Jools Holland: Groove & Grime. Jools presents a compilation of archive clips featuring black artists, including performances by D-Influence, Emeli Sande, Craig David, Stormzy, Mark Morrison and Dizzee Rascal.
11.30 Film: She's Out of My League. (2010) An average man begins a relationship with a beautiful and clever woman, but is haunted by the fear that she can do better than him. Romantic comedy, with Jay Baruchel and Alice Eve.
1.10 Sign Zone: Countryfile Ramble for BBC Children In Need. (R) **2.20** Holby City. (R) **3.20** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Sooty. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories. (R) **7.00** Super 4. (R) **7.15** Oddbods. (R) **7.25** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.30** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Looped. **8.30** Scrambled!: Thunderbirds Are Go. **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Bear Grylls Survival School. **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **11.00** Gino's Italian Escape: Hidden Italy. (R) **11.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **12.25** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** The Chase. (R) **1.35** The X Factor. (R) **3.05** Midsomer Murders. (R) **5.00** Tipping Point. (R)
6.00 Regional Programme; Weather.
6.15 ITV News; Weather.
6.30 Off Their Rockers. Katie Price joins the old age pranksters.
7.00 The Next Great Magician. Jim Carter and Amy Childs help some of the second batch of performers with their illusions.
8.00 The X Factor. Dermot O'Leary presents the results of last night's show, revealing who is through to the next stage before a sing-off decides which act will be eliminated from the contest.
9.00 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! New series. Ant and Dec return to the jungles of Murwillumbah in New South Wales, Australia to present the latest series of the celebrity survival challenge. Contestants foregoing their creature comforts to brave the hardships of the Bush for this series are unconfirmed at the time of going to press, but all will no doubt face a struggle to complete the gruelling daily physical and mental tasks, as well as taking a mouthful of some of the region's more gruesome wildlife in the Bushtucker Trials.
10.45 ITV News; Weather.
11.05 The Pity of War: The Loves and Lives of the War Poets. Fact-based First World War drama telling the story of poets Siegfried Sassoon, Wilfred Owen and Robert Graves as they are confronted with the chaos of the trenches. With John Hurt.
12.00 Anglo-Welsh Cup Highlights. **12.50** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 Triathlon: Challenge Aruba. **6.40** Frasier. (R) **7.05** Frasier. (R) **7.30 Film:** Imagine That. (2009) Fantasy comedy, starring Eddie Murphy. **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Cheltenham and Fontwell Park. **2.45 Film:** Rango. (2011) Oscar-winning animated comedy, with the voice of Johnny Depp. **4.50 Film:** Johnny English. (2003) Spy comedy, starring Rowan Atkinson.
6.30 Channel 4 News.
7.00 Last Heroes of the Somme. The story of how the Battle of the Somme was finally won after four months of fighting, as the British forces made one final desperate push, backed up by early tanks, that changed the course of the First World War. The film follows the families of seven soldiers who fought on the final day of the struggle 100 years previously, who share diaries and letters and pay a visit to the battlefield.
8.00 Great Canal Journeys. Timothy West and Prunella Scales venture into the open sea as they make their way through the islands of Scotland's coast. Their destination is the rarely used nine-mile Crinan canal on the Mull of Kintyre, described as the world's most beautiful shortcut. However, the Atlantic waves off the coast of Mull force them to head inland to Tobermory. They later explore the holy island of Iona and the Isle of Jura.
9.00 Humans. Athena arrives in the UK, and her tragic secret is revealed. Niska's consciousness assessments begin, and the Synths are forced to abandon their hiding place, while Mia shocks her friends by making a decision with serious repercussions. Karen returns to work, but her relationship with Pete is strained, and Joe starts to notice something strange about Sophie's behaviour.
10.00 Formula 1: Brazilian Grand Prix Highlights. Action from the race at Interlagos in Sao Paulo, which served as the 20th and penultimate round of the season.
12.05 Film: The Sitter. (2011) Comedy, starring Jonah Hill. **1.45** The Last Leg. (R) **2.40** Killing Kennedy. Drama about the assassination of JFK, starring Rob Lowe. (R) **4.25** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R) **4.40** Deal or No Deal. (R) **5.30** Wedding Town. **5.55** The King of Queens. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Milkshake! Monkey. **6.05** Milkshake! Bop Box. (R) **6.10** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.25** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.40** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **6.50** Zack and Quack. (R) **7.00** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.20** Pip Ahoy! (R) **7.35** Little Princess. (R) **7.45** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.05** Blaze and the Monster Machines. **8.30** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **8.50** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.05** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.25** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.00** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **11.00** 5 News Special: Remembrance Sunday. **11.05** The Gadget Show. (R) **12.05** House Doctor. (R) **1.05 Film:** The Heart of Christmas. (2011) Drama, starring Candace Cameron Bure. **2.50 Film:** Road to Christmas. (2006) Romantic comedy drama, starring Jennifer Grey and Clark Gregg. **4.35 Film:** One Christmas Eve. (2014) Premiere. Family comedy, starring Anne Heche.
6.15 Film: Married by Christmas. (2016) Premiere. The head of a family-run company realises she has to get married by Christmas or she will lose the business to her sister. Comedy, starring Jes Macallan and April Bowlby. Includes 5 News at 7.15pm.
8.00 Ice Road Truckers. Todd finds a novel way of conquering a melted ice crossing, while Darrell and Lisa struggle to make it home and Alex faces a race against the clock.
8.55 5 News Weekend.
9.00 Film: Pompeii. (2014) Premiere. A gladiator in the ancient Roman city falls in love with the daughter of a wealthy merchant, who is being forced into marriage with a corrupt senator. When the nearby volcano Vesuvius erupts, he fights to save her and escape the destruction of the city. Disaster movie, starring Kit Harington, Emily Browning, Carrie-Anne Moss and Kiefer Sutherland. Includes 5 News Update at 10pm.
11.05 Film: Red Dawn. (2012) Teenagers form a resistance movement when their home town is taken over by North Korean invaders. Action adventure remake, with Chris Hemsworth.
12.45 Criminals: Caught on Camera. (R) **1.15** SuperCasino. **3.10** Ben Fogle: New Lives in the Wild. (R) **4.00** Tattoo Disasters UK. (R) **4.50** House Doctor. (R) **5.40** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Canals – The Making of a Nation **7.30** Books That Made Britain **8.00** Jeremy Deller: We're here because we're here **8.30** Railway Walks **9.00** Destination Titan **10.00** The Sky at Night **10.30** Cathy Come Home **11.50** Nature's Wonderlands: Islands of Evolution **12.50** Stuff: A Horizon Guide to Materials **1.50** Destination Titan **2.50** Wild Burma: Nature's Lost Kingdom **3.50** Close
ITV2
1.35 Film: The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie (2004) **2.35** FYI Daily **2.40 Film:** The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie (2004) **3.20 Film:** The Smurfs (2011) **4.20** FYI Daily **4.25 Film:** The Smurfs (2011) **5.25 Film:** Yogi Bear (2010) **6.25** FYI Daily **6.30 Film:** Yogi Bear (2010) **7.00 Film:** Jack and Jill (2011) **8.00** FYI Daily **8.05 Film:** Jack and Jill (2011) **9.00** The Xtra Factor Live **10.00** Family Guy **10.30** The Hot Desk: Busted **10.45** I'm a Celebrity: Extra Camp **11.45** Family Guy **12.45** American Dad! **1.15** The Cleveland Show **2.10** The Hot Desk: Vicky Pattison
ITV3
11.25 FYI Daily **11.30 Film:** Black Beauty (1994) **12.10** A Touch of Frost **2.15 Film:** Columbo: A Deadly State of Mind (1975) **3.50 Film:** The Queen (2006) **4.50** FYI Daily **4.55 Film:** The Queen (2006) **5.55** By Royal Appointment **7.10** The Making of a Lady **9.00** Appropriate Adult **12.00** Inspector Morse **2.10** Wycliffe **3.30** May the Best House Win **5.10** On the Buses
ITV4
11.55 Cash Cowboys **1.55 Film:** The Cimarron Kid (1952) **2 3.40 Film:** The Man from the Alamo (1953) **5.20** British Touring Car Championship Highlights **7.25** World Cup Qualifier Live. Portugal v Latvia (Kick-off 7.45pm). **10.00** Storage Wars **10.30** World Cup Qualifier Highlights **12.05 Film:** Fastest (2011) **2.20** Tommy Cooper
E4
11.30 Made in Chelsea **12.30** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **1.30 Film:** Scrooged (1988) **3.30** The Goldbergs **4.30** The Big Bang Theory **8.00 Film:** The Day After Tomorrow (2004) **10.30** Tattoo Fixers on Holiday **11.35** The Inbetweeners **12.40** The Inbetweeners Top 10 Moments **1.50** Crazyhead **2.45** Body Fixers
Film4
11.00 Bend of the River (1952) **1.00** Ferris Bueller's Day Off (1986) **3.05** ParaNorman (2012) **4.55** Moonrise Kingdom (2012) **6.55** Terminal Velocity (1994) **9.00** R.I.P.D (2013) **11.00** The Last King of Scotland (2006) **1.30** Monsieur Lazhar (2011) **3.35** Close

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PICK OF THE WEEK

FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
In Time, Channel 5, 11.05pm
Future scientists reverse the ageing process, allowing people to live for ever. To avoid overpopulation, time becomes a currency, with the rich living indefinitely while the poor must toil to stave off death. A factory worker acquires 100 years of time, and spends it fighting to redress the balance of power. Sci-fi thriller, starring Justin Timberlake. (2011)

TUESDAY
The March Sisters at Christmas, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Four sisters are shocked to learn their family home will have to be sold because of the the massive amount of repair work it needs. When their parents go away, the girls come up with a plan to restore the place themselves and have it back to its former glory by Christmas. Drama inspired by Louisa May Alcott's Little Women, starring Julie Marie Berman. (2012)

In Time, Monday, Channel 5, 11.05pm

WEDNESDAY
Fifty Dead Men Walking, BBC1, 11.45pm
Fact-based thriller telling the story of Martin McGartland, who was recruited as a police informant in 1980s Belfast and sent on a mission to infiltrate the IRA. He rose swiftly through the ranks, providing vital information to the British authorities. Once he was exposed, he was tortured and forced to go into hiding. Starring Jim Sturgess and Ben Kingsley. (2008)

THURSDAY
A Christmas Kiss, Channel 5, 3.15pm
An aspiring designer impulsively kisses a man she meets in a lift, only to discover he is her boss's boyfriend. She is given the task of decorating his house for a lavish Christmas party, but begins to fall in love with him – while he does not remember their previous encounter. Romantic drama, with Laura Breckenridge and Elisabeth Rohm. (2011)

FRIDAY
Carry On Jack, ITV, 11.15pm
A bumbling midshipman has his identity stolen by a woman desperate to go to sea, and then ends up press-ganged on to the same ship. Comedy, with Bernard Cribbins and Juliet Mills. (1963)

New drama hopes to be a novel success

Actress Phoebe Fox is clearly in demand at the moment – not only can she be seen in Stephen Poliakoff's latest series, Close to the Enemy, she's also cropping up in another one of BBC Two's most prestigious offerings, NW.

Adapted from Zadie Smith's best-selling novel, the feature-length drama follows Natalie (Nikki Amuka-Bird) and Leah (Fox), two friends who grew up together in north-west London, but whose lives have taken them in very different directions.

Phoebe explains: "Leah and Natalie both grew up on the same estate, they are best friends but they have reached a point in their lives where they are so far away from each other.

"Natalie's lost sight of who she is and it's hard for a friendship to survive when you don't recognise your best friend anymore. They love each other but they also sort of hate each other's guts. It's a very complicated relationship."

Her co-star Nikki adds: "Natalie starts out life as Keisha. From a modest background, she's incredibly intelligent and driven, and pushes herself on to university, eventually becoming a barrister. She then marries the 'perfect' man, has two children and seems like she has the perfect life.

"She's a miracle of her own self-invention, but she reaches a point in her mid-thirties where she asks herself what it's all about and has an existential crisis. It's at this time in her life that we meet Natalie in NW."

So, at least she still has something in common with Leah, who is facing some big decisions of her own. Phoebe says: "She's dealing with something that is still quite taboo for women to talk about; she doesn't want to have kids. That's her main story within the book and the screenplay. We see her having to confront something which is seen as being so fundamentally female."

It's one of the elements that drew the actress to the role. "It's very rare to see such finely drawn female characters, for them to be dealing with issues that are so true to life, instead of worrying about whether a guy likes them or not.

"As an actress you spend a lot of time in those kind of roles, falling in and out of love with the right and the wrong man; so to actually address deeper issues was really exciting. A lot of my friends don't want to have kids, it's not a cut and dry issue for our generation, so Leah felt very real – that really appealed to me."

And it's not just the characters that felt authentic – the contemporary London setting did too. Asked what viewers can expect from NW, Phoebe says: "I think they can expect a portrait of London with a very emotional core to it, depicting the city and its inhabitants, in all of its nastiness but also all of its glory."

The drama shows that Leah and Natalie are living in an area where poverty and wealth are just streets apart – and when they are both brought into contact with two other characters from their old estate, the tensions threaten to reach breaking point.

Nikki Amuka-Bird and Phoebe Fox star in NW, Monday, BBC2, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Children in Need Rocks for Terry
BBC1, 8.30pm
Fearne Cotton and Greg James host a special concert staged at the Royal Albert Hall to honour broadcaster and Children in Need figurehead Terry Wogan, featuring performances by Take That, Ellie Goulding, Olly Murs, Gregory Porter, Michael Ball, Alfie Boe, Rick Astley, Beverley Knight, Alexander Armstrong, the Vamps, Ward Thomas and Shaun Escoffery. There are also appeal films and archive clips of Terry's career, including a chance to relive one of the classic Radio 2 Janet and John Stories.

TUESDAY
Live International Football
ITV, 7.30pm
England v Spain (Kick-off 8.00pm). Mark Pougatch presents coverage of the friendly at Wembley Stadium, as Gareth Southgate takes charge of the fourth and final game of his short stint as England manager. Southgate stepped up from his role as Under-21s boss to take the reins of the senior team in the wake of Sam Allardyce's shock departure after just one match, and has been seen by many as an ideal candidate for the job full-time. No decision has yet been taken by the FA, but the former Middlesbrough defender will be keen to impress his superiors with a good performance here against the former world champions.

WEDNESDAY
This Time Next Year
ITV, 8pm
Davina meets up with more people who want to change the course of their life over the space of a year. First up is a16-year-old boy who has been unable to speak for six years after suffering damage to his windpipe. He's made the decision to undergo an operation, but will it help him to regain his voice? The presenter also talks to a father of three who is pledging to shed seven stones in weight, and Kathryn and Chris who are turning to surrogacy after Kathryn was told that a rare disease means she risks losing her sight if she carries their second child.

THURSDAY
DIY SOS: Million Pound Build for Children in Need
BBC1, 8pm
DIY SOS highlights the plight of nation's 250,000 young carers, who look after their parents on a daily basis. Blackpool Carers Trust, which is supported by funding from Children in Need, provides limited out-of-school respite and training activities for some of these carers – but its current centre is bursting at the seams. It has now inherited a bigger, broken-down property, which will require the renovation of a neglected building and a huge overgrown garden – and that's where Nick and the team come in, with help from designer Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen.

Children in Need 2016, Friday, BBC1, 7.30pm

FRIDAY
Children in Need 2016
BBC1, 7.30pm
Tess Daly and Greg James introduce a night of entertainment as the BBC's annual appeal night gets underway, beginning with a performance from the hit West End musical Aladdin and a special children's edition of Would I Lie to You? 8.00 The cast of EastEnders performs a dance medley of 1980s movie classics and a children's choir of over 1,500 members sings in unison across the nation. Plus, an exclusive first look of the Dr Who Christmas special. 8.30 Graham Norton and Ade Adepitan host as a group of children receives a very special surprise from Little Mix. Plus, an Olympic-themed Strictly Come Dancing featuring some of the members of Team GB. 9.00 Mel Giedroyc and Sue Perkins help Oscar-winning actor Eddie Redmayne in his quest to find Pudsey Bear. 9.30 The final leg of The One Show's amazing rickshaw challenge. Plus, the first winner of The Sir Terry Wogan Fundraiser of Year Award is announced and Craig David is in the studio to perform the official Children in Need single, All We Needed.

Rick Stein's Long Weekends
BBC2, 9pm
The presenter visits the home of New Nordic cuisine – Copenhagen – where he goes foraging for rosehip and learns about the art of pickling buds, bark and flowers. He's cheered to find plenty of traditional favourites, such as the city's famous Smorrebrod open sandwiches on rye bread, delicious poached turbot with cabbage and lemon butter sauce and – of course – the ubiquitous Danish pastry.

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Codeword

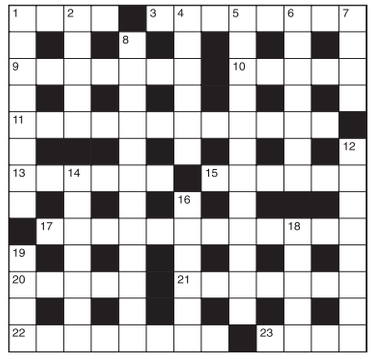
Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
N	K	Y	G	V	O	L	H	A	T	R	S	Z
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
C	W	F	U	P	D	J	Q	B	X	M	E	I

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. A young animal and a young insect (4)
3. Lock-jointed! (8)
9. So sure I can be in earnest (7)
10. To compel payment is strictly correct (5)
11. This may lead to strife, but Sid returns with a treaty (12)
13. Used for Mosaic inscription to rearrange battle (6)
15. A point to the story is not ethical (6)
17. The country is unattested, in a way (6,6)
20. Neil is upset by a stranger (5)
21. Partly bear a cheerless affliction (7)
22. Presides badly - break up the meeting (8)
23. Deity concealed in this, I suppose (4)

Down

1. Put a later time for staff appointment (8)
2. A capital participant in the Trojan War (5)
4. Used to be deposed (6)
5. Mercurial recorders (12)
6. Painter and composer of oratorios (7)
7. What one must do to provide a levy (4)
8. What the judge may deliver, consisting of many clauses (4,8)
12. Part less damaged when they are medically applied (8)
14. They take part in raids and in scraps (7)
16. They count up the reptiles (6)
18. What must be paid, we hear, for carpet fasteners (5)
19. Measure a paved area (4)

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Imitate (4)
3. Estimated (8)
9. Incite (7)
10. Taut (5)
11. One by one (12)
13. Numberless (6)
15. Hurry (6)
17. Tory (12)
20. Stroll (5)
21. Hide (7)
22. Salutation (8)
23. Plan (4)

Down

1. Carping (8)
2. Arrogant (5)
4. Stable (6)
5. Excessive spending (12)
6. Vest (7)
7. Profound (4)
8. Recovering (12)
12. Obscene (8)
14. Bother (7)
16. Jail (6)
18. Perfect (5)
19. Band (4)

Sudoku

		4			3			6
	3	1			5		4	7
	7			4		3		
			4					2
	1	5	7		9	8	3	
6					2			
	8	2		1			6	
1			8		6	4	9	
			5			1		

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

3	6	8	4	1	5	2	7	9
9	5	7	2	3	8	4	6	1
2	4	1	9	7	6	3	8	5
6	3	5	1	9	4	7	2	8
1	9	2	8	6	7	5	3	4
7	8	4	5	2	3	9	1	6
8	1	3	7	5	9	6	4	2
4	7	9	6	8	2	1	5	3
5	2	6	3	4	1	8	9	7

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 6 Seraphs; 7 Lists; 9 Scans; 10 Knights; 12 Charioteers; 14 Persistence; 18 Willing; 19 Enter; 21 Feted; 22 Infancy. Down: 1 React; 2 Launch; 3 The; 4 Single; 5 Stature; 8 Unmoved; 11 Present; 13 Desired; 15 Solder; 16 Canvas; 17 Fence; 20 End. QUICK - Across: 6 Macabre; 7 Allow; 9 Misty; 10 Unmanly; 12 Fraudulence; 14 Fashionable; 18 Stunted; 19 Avoid; 21 Impel; 22 Contact. Down: 1 Rapid; 2 Matter; 3 Try; 4 Please; 5 Collect; 8 Inhuman; 11 Run over; 13 Pastime; 15 Hinder; 16 Levity; 17 Pinch; 20 Row.

Thinking space

Quiz

1. Who was born Agnes Bojaxhiu in 1910?
2. How is soya bean curd also known?
3. What is the largest lake in Italy?
4. With which drink is Armagnac associated?
5. Which is the largest desert?
6. For what, in America, is the Grand Old Party a popular name?
7. From what fruit is the alcoholic drink perry made?
8. What is the common name of the annual plant Lycopersicon esculentum?
9. Which English explorer discovered the magnetic North Pole in 1831?
10. In which city did the Peterloo massacre take place?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Harold Wilson; 2 Hamster; 3 Death Valley; 4 Parry; 5 War; 6 Pacific; 7 Fayed brothers; 8 Kingfisher; 9 Henry IV; 10 Syria.

Niner: RECOUPING

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

9574699 gives an Austrian composer,
37283 gives a Norwegian composer,
32312 gives an Italian singer.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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Sandwell Chronicle Thursday, November 10, 2016

A fishy story – two sea bass served with root vegetables and mash

Rustic restaurant – inside is authentic and relaxed

Taste of Italy – Cafe Casita Ristorante Italiano

Traditional taste – homemade tiramisu

It's no secret now, this Italian restaurant was just the job

By James Driver-Fisher

ITALIAN has always been a personal preference so when our six-year wedding anniversary came up we decided it would be the perfect excuse to sample one of the local eateries.

There is just something about the food, wine and atmosphere that seems to tick all the boxes for such occasions.

Our choice was Cafe Casita, in Clarence Street, Dudley, which we had previously been assured had a lovely relaxed and rustic feel about it.

It was exactly what we had hoped for with the set up being not too posh but fancy enough to enjoy a special meal.

Under the management of Anna and Erminio who have a passion for creating a memorable experience, the restaurant specialises in seafood – particularly dover sole, salmon, monkfish, seabass and lemon sole – which again ticked all the boxes for us.

Without trying to sound too set in my ways, the first thing my eyes are always drawn to for a main is some sort of seafood pasta but of course there were drinks, nibbles and starters to sort out first.

After much deliberation Kelly opted for fungi in crosta, mushrooms wrapped in filo pastry topped with a light creamy infusion of bacon, mushrooms and mozzarella.

My choice was salsiccia picante, spicy Italian sausage oven-baked with a combination of peppers, onions and tomatoes. The sauce for the salsiccia picante was rich, thick and bursting with tomato and garlic.

Kelly's starter was probably the polar opposite because, still packed full of flavour, it was a much lighter option and really very tasty. Perhaps one of the nicest things about the whole evening was at no point did we feel rushed.

Choosing a meal was a seriously hard task because of the options available but a decision had to be made and Kelly's eyes were immediately drawn to the chef's specials, the sea bass in particular, which came with a sauce, root vegetables and a bed of mash potatoes.

Crispy

The sea bass was cooked very nicely and remained slightly crispy on the outside.

I went with what I knew I'd love and ordered the tagliolini gameroni, Italy's finest noodles, according to the menu, tossed in king prawns, garlic and cherry tomatoes, served in a creamy sauce with a touch of chilli.

Having tried numerous fish-based dishes in restaurants I can safely say the tagliolini gameroni was up there with the best.Having had starters, a few side dishes and a main meant there was no room for a sweet course, so we kindly passed on the dessert menu although the tiramisu did look tempting.

The café-style décor of the venue really does add to the experience because, although it's nothing like your run-of-mill greasy spoon, the seating, layout and general feel of the restaurant is designed to make diners feel at home.

Café Casita classes itself as one of the Black Country's best kept secrets within the dining scene.

The restaurant was packed while we were there and everyone seemed to be enjoying the atmosphere and food as much as we were – so perhaps it won't be a best kept secret for much longer.

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27 NOV • LEEDS & YORK XMAS MARKETS ABBA TRIBUTE
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PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Extended and much-improved traditional property

Extended and much-improved, this traditional semi-detached property in Church Lane, West Bromwich is for sale through Paul Dubberley at £170,000.

With double glazing and central heating its accommodation briefly comprises of an entrance porch, an entrance hall, two reception rooms, a re-fitted kitchen/diner, a utility, guest WC, three double bedrooms, a family bathroom with a jacuzzi bath, an en-suite shower room and an enclosed garden with a summerhouse and a workshop.

In more detail the entrance porch opens tot he entrance hall which has laminate flooring and stairs off.

The front facing lounge has laminate flooring and the rear lounge has an electric fire.

Re-fitted

The re-fitted kitchen/diner has patio doors opening to the rear garden, a range of oak-style Shaker base and wall fitted units with roll edge worktops, an inset bowl and half sink top, integrated appliances including a double oven, a five-ring gas hob, extractor hood and dishwasher, space for a fridge freezer and a door tot he utility room with a worktop, washing machine and dryer, a wash hand basin, tiled flooring and a door to the guest WC with a white suite comprising a close coupled WC and vanity wash hand basin and tiled flooring.

Bedroom one has a dormer window and there are two further bedrooms, with one of these having an en-suite with a white suite comprising a close coupled WC, pedestal wash hand basin and a shower cubicle with a thermostatic mixer shower, tiled walls and extractor fan.

The bathroom has a white coloured suite comprising of a close coupled WC, pedestal wash hand basin, a spa bath and a walk-in shower with a thermostatic mixer shower, tiled walls and an extractor fan.

Outside the rear garden is enclosed and includes a timber patio deck, a lawn and a side gate. There is also a summer house/workshop. Built of brick with a pitched roof and electrics, this is currently being divided into two rooms and has great potential for a variety of uses.

KEY FEATURES

- Extended
- Semi-detached
- Re-fitted kitchen/diner
- 3 double bedrooms
- Bathroom, en-suite & guest WC

WEST BROMWICH **£170,000**

TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Paul Dubberley
TEL: 0121 525 2111
EMAIL: westbrom@pauldubberley.co.uk

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27 BEACONSFIELD ST
- 4 BEDROOMS
- LOFT BEDROOM
- OFF STREET PARKING

RENT: £750

1B OAK LANE
- NEW BUILD
- 3 BEDROOMS
- NEWLY FITTED KITCHEN

RENT:£650

37 EUROPA AVENUE
- DRIVEWAY
- 4 BEDROOMS
- LARGE GARDEN

RENT:£750

5 OAK CLOSE
- CAR PARK
- 1 BEDROOM
- OPEN PLAN KITCHEN

RENT:£400

28 HAZELBEECH ROAD
- 3 BEDROOMS
- LARGE GARDEN
- OFF STREET PARKING

RENT:650

161 OAK ROAD
- 3 BEDROOMS
- LARGE GARDEN
- SPACIOUS DRIVEWAY

RENT: £600

110 WOOD LANE
- 3 BEDROOMS
- CENTRAL HEATING
- PRIVATE DRIVEWAY

RENT: £500

14 MONKGATE DRIVE
- 3 BEDROOMS
- TOWN HOUSE
- ALLOCATED PARKING

RENT: £600

*Landlords will recieve £200 once a tenant has moved into the property. Apex will be required to manage the property for a minimum of 12 months.

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Pargeter Road, Bearwood

- Recently Refurbished (2016) Mid Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- Through Lounge
- Modern Kithen
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £189,950

White Road, Quinton

- Beautifully Presented Family Home
- Three Bedrooms
- Stunning Open Plan Dining Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Off Road Parking
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £200,000

allAgents.co.uk

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We are delighted to announce that our office won the 2016 GOLD award for the best estate agent for customer experience!
(pictured left)

Robert Oulsnam & Co also picked up the winners award for the West Midlands Estate Agency of the Year at the Negotiator Awards.
(Directors Andrew Oulsnam & Ian Williams pictured right)

If you are thinking of selling please call us now on 0121 429 9986 to arrange your FREE valuation and be a part of our success!!

Thimblemill Road, Smethwick

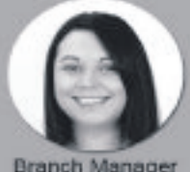
- Traditional Semi Detached
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Modern Extended Kitchen
- Ground Floor WC
- Two Reception Rooms
- EP Rating TBC

Offers in the region of £164,950

Welsh House Farm Road, Harborne

- Modern Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Spacious Lounge
- Desirable Location
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £199,950



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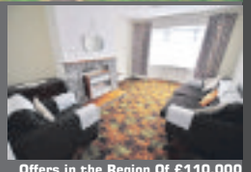
SHELTON CLOSE WEDNESBURY
- Lovely Cul-de-sac location
- Link Detached house
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Kitchen/Dining Room
- Bathroom
- uPVC double glazing and gas central heating throughout
- Garage

£150,000

ADDISON STREET WEDNESBURY
- Semi-Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Off-Road Parking
- No Upward Chain

Offers in the Region Of £120,000

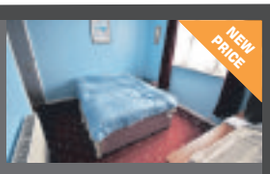
SCHOOL ROAD WEDNESBURY
- Three bedroom end of terraced house set on this large corner plot.
- Potential to extend (subject to planning permission)
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Detached garage
- Shower room
- Garden to front, side and rear.
- Early viewing advised.



Offers in the Region Of £110,000

HALES ROAD WEDNESBURY
- An immaculate semi-detached house
- Three good sized bedrooms
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Downstairs WC & Upstairs Bathroom
- Large Driveway to front
- Rear Garden

£135,000



CONSORT DRIVE WEDNESBURY
- Mid-terraced house
- One bedroom
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Parking space
- Ideal for a first time buyer
- No upward chain

£74,950

CRANKHALL LANE WEDNESBURY
- Semi-Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Off-road parking
- Rear Garden
- No Chain

Offers in the Region Of £115,000

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Rachael Gardens, Wednesbury Rachael Gardens
- Semi-detached house
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Kitchen/Diner
- Bathroom
- Off-road parking
- Rear Garden
- No upward Chain

£154,950

Rooth Street, Wednesbury Rooth Street
- Characterful Mid-terraced house
- Three Bedrooms
- Spacious Bathroom
- Loft Room (Potential 4th Bedroom)
- Two living rooms and dining room
- Large Kitchen and utility
- Lovely Rear Garden
- Cellar

£225,000

House with stunning kitchen/diner

A charming three-bedroomed semi-detached home in Church Hill, Wednesbury, includes a stunning kitchen/diner.

WEDNESBURY

£150,000 <<<

Also with a multi fuel burner in the lounge, it is for sale through Goodchilds at offers over £150,000. With double glazing, central heating and off road parking, its accommodation comprises entrance hall, living room, a kitchen/diner, a master bedroom and two further bedrooms.

The bathroom has a contemporary suite with a bath with a shower over. Contact Goodchilds on 01902 267111.

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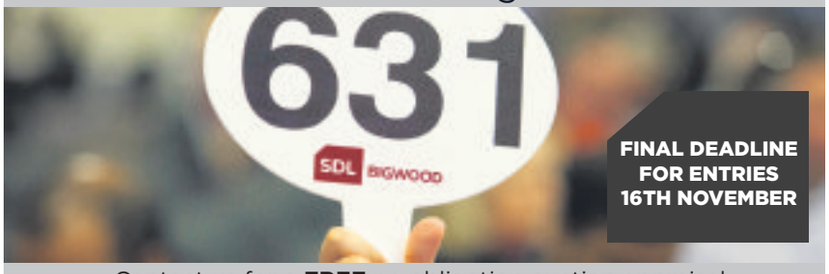

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Application Made
Tipton
Queens Road
- New Build!
- Three bedrooms
- Master bedroom with ensuite
- Gas/CH & D/glazed
- Newly fitted carpets
- Kitchen with appliances
- Off road parking

£695pcm

Application Made
Tipton
Monins Avenue
- Freshly decorated
- D/glazed & Gas/CH
- Breakfast kitchen
- Three bedrooms
- Private garden
- Bathroom with shower

£625pcm

Tividale
Clun Close
- Three bedrooms
- Ideal for commuters!
- Part furnished
- D/glazed
- Kitchen with appliances
- Family bathroom with shower

£550pcm

Tipton
Ferguson Drive
- Two bedroom apartment
- First floor
- Breakfast kitchen
- Bathroom
- Two allocated parking spaces

£475pcm

Application Made
Kingswinford
Glynne Avenue
- Recently redecorated
- Three bed semi
- Fully fitted kitchen
- Double glazed
- Two double bedrooms
- Bathroom with shower

£675pcm

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Bridle Grove , West Bromwich
4 2 2 EPC D
£280,000

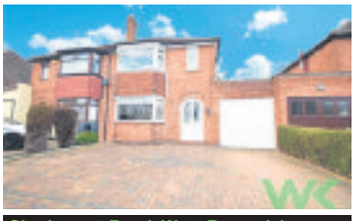
Farm Avenue, Oldbury
4 2 2 EPC D
£270,000

Hopkins Drive, West Bromwich
2 1 1 EPC E
£235,000

Burghley Drive, West Bromwich
4 2 2 EPC D
£230,000

Woden Road East, Wednesbury
3 2 1 EPC E
£229,500

Heath Lane, West Bromwich
3 1 1 EPC D
£225,000



Charlemont Road, West Bromwich
3 1 2 EPC D
£200,000

Whitworth Drive, West Bromwich
3 1 2 EPC D
£170,000

Church Lane, West Bromwich
3 2 2 EPC D
£160,000

Andrew Road, West Bromwich
3 1 1 EPC D
£160,000

Andrew Road, West Bromwich
3 1 1 EPC D
£155,000

Hollyhedge Road, West Bromwich
2 1 1 EPC C
£115,000

Walsall Road, West Bromwich
3 1 1 EPC E
£205,000

Hawthorne Road, Wednesbury
3 1 2 EPC D
£147,500

Larchwood Road, Walsall
3 2 2 EPC D
£135,000

Keys Crescent, West Bromwich
3 1 1 EPC E
£130,000

Stanhurst Way, West Bromwich
3 1 2 EPC D
£125,000

Poultney Street, West Bromwich
3 1 2 EPC D
£125,000

Gorsty Close, West Bromwich
3 1 1 EPC D
£115,000

Overton Place, West Bromwich
2 1 1 EPC D
£90,000

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Estate Agents & Lettings

Bloomfield Road,Tipton
- ●●Goodchilds●●●
- End Terraced
- Four Bedrooms
- Living Room
- Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Double Glazed
- Gas Central Heating

Offers in the region of £199,950

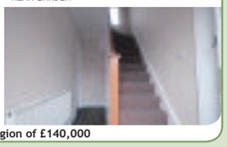
Church Hill,Wednesbury
- ●●Goodchilds●●
- Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Living Room
- Kitchen/Diner
- Family Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- Off Road Parking

Offers in the Region Of £155,000

King Street,Wednesbury
- ●●Goodchilds●●
- Terraced
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Downstairs W.C
- Kitchen/Diner

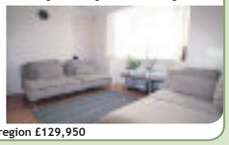
Offers in the region of £145,000

Neptune Street,Tipton
- DETACHED PROPERTY
- TWO BEDROOMS
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- RECENTLY RE-FURBISHED
- DOUBLE GLAZED
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING
- FAMILY BATHROOM
- REAR GARDEN



Offers in the region of £140,000

Stanbury Avenue,Wednesbury
- End terraced property
- Three spacious bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Family bathroom
- Downstairs WC
- Plentiful storage space
- Garage
- Double glazed and gas central heating



Offers in the region £129,950

Vicarage Road,Wednesbury
- ●●Goodchilds●●
- Three Bedroom
- Terraced
- Living Room
- Kitchen
- Rear Garden
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing

Offers in the region of £110,000

Queen Street,Wednesbury
- NOW AVAILABLE TO VIEW
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Rear Garden

Offers in the region of £90,000

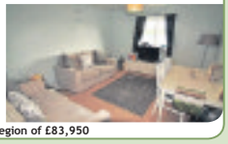
Blenheim Drive,Wednesbury
- ●●Goodchilds●●
- Upper Floor Flat
- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge/Kitchen
- Double Glazed
- Allocated Parking
- Must View
- Secure Entrance

Offers in the region of £85,000

Brookside,Wednesbury
- Ground Floor Apartment
- Two Bedrooms
- Living Room
- Kitchen With Breakfast Area
- Family Bathroom
- Double Glazed
- Allocated Parking
- Must View

Offers in the region of £85,000

Brookside,Wednesbury
- ●●Goodchilds●●
- Second Floor Apartment
- Entrance Hallway
- Kitchen
- Living Room
- Family Bathroom
- Master Bedroom
- Second Bedroom



Offers in the region of £83,950

Tame Crossing,Wednesbury
- Second Floor Apartment
- Communal Garden
- Allocated Parking
- Two Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- Living Room

Offers in the region of £80,000

Churchfield Avenue,Tipton
- ●●Goodchilds●●
- Three Bedrooms
- Living Room
- Bathroom
- Kitchen
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Rear Parking

Offers in the Excess of £45,000

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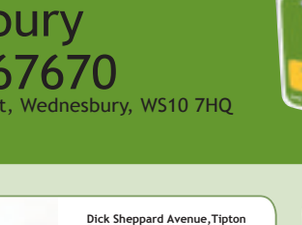
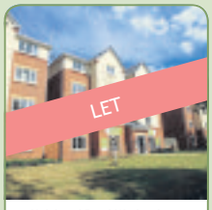


Talbot House,West Midlands
- One Bedroom upper Floor Flat
- Great Transport Links
- Fitted Kitchen
- Newly Decorated
- Electric Heating
- DHSS Accepted
- Low utility prices
- Available now!

Monthly rental of £300

Dick Sheppard Avenue,Tipton
- Four Bedroom New build property
- Gas central heating
- Double Glazing
- Large rear garden
- Driveway
- Fitted Kitchen
- Fitted Bathroom
- En suite

Monthly Rental £725



Holyhead Road,Wednesbury
- Ground Floor One Bedroom Apartment
- Double Glazing
- Electric Heating
- Allocated Parking
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Good transport links

Monthly Rental Of £475

Coronation Road,Tipton
- Newly Refurbished property!
- Three bedroom semi detached
- Off road parking
- Family bathroom
- Fitted kithchen
- Rear garden
- Large Garden
- Dhss accepted

Monthly Rental of £600

Elizabeth Walk,Tipton
- AVAILABLE NOW!
- Ground floor two bedroom flat
- Recently Refurbished
- Doublle Glazing
- Gas central heating
- New fitted kitchen
- New fitted Bathroom
- Must View

Monthly Rental £450

Dangerfield Lane,Wednesbury
- Two Bedroom Semi detached property
- Gas central heating
- Double Glazing
- Off road parking
- Front and Rear garden
- Downstairs WC

Monthly Rental £495

Crankhall Lane,Wednesbury
- Three Bedroom Mid Terraced House
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Atic Room
- Rear Garden
- Must View
- Dhss considered
- Family bathroom

Monthly Rental £550

Franchise Street,West Midlands
- Two Bedroom Terraced house
- Fitted Kitchen
- Fitted Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- Good transport links
- Dhss applicants are considered

Monthly Rental £475

Myvod Road,West Midlands
- One Bedroom Ground floor apartment
- Fitted kitchen
- Fitted Bathroom
- Parking to the front and rear of the property
- Sorry No dhss
- Must View
- Secure communal entrance

Monthly Rental £450

Sorbus Street,Bilston
- Two Bedroom Town House
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Master Bedroom with En-suite
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental £575

Dilliars Walk,West Bromwich
- Four Bedroom Terraced House
- Off Road Parking
- Gas Central Heating
- Fitted Kitchen
- Conservatory
- DHSS CONSIDERED
- Newly Painted
- Must view

Monthly rental £595

Tilley Street,Wednesbury
- Three Bedrooms Detached
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Off Road Parking
- Rear Garden
- DHSS ACCEPTED

Monthly Rental £495

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Thunderbolt Way, Tipton, DY4

• Excellent Modern Middle Town House
• Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
• Spacious Family Accommodation
• Porch ● Reception hall ● Guest Cloakroom,
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£159,950**

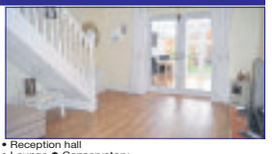
Ash Road, Tipton, DY4 Tipton

• Semi Detached Family Home
• Excellent Corner Position
•
• ,
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£119,950**

Arthur Road, Tipton, DY4

• Superbly Presented Semi Detached
• Excellent Family Accommodation
• Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
• Reception Hall,
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£125,000**

Avern Close Tipton



• Modern Middle Terrace
• Gas Central Heating ● Upvc Double Glazing
• Superbly Improved Accommodation ● No Upward chain
• EPC Rating C
Viewing

• Reception hall
• Lounge ● Conservatory
• Fitted Kitchen
• 2 Bedrooms ● Modern Fitted Bathroom, Viewing Strongly Recommended
OFFERS AROUND: **£110,000**

Doughty Close, Tipton, DY4

• Luxury Modern Apartment
• Ideal Investment Opportunity
• Achieving £425 PCM, Potential Yield 7.3%
• Reception Hall,
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£66,950**

Nightingale Drive, Tipton, DY4

• Purpose Built Gound Floor Flat
• Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
• Lounge
• Inner Hallway ● Fitted Kitchen,
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£59,950**

Hopton Close, Tipton, DY4 Tipton

• Modern Extended Semi Detached
• Sought After Location
• Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
• Porch ● Reception Hall
• Lounge ● Fitted Breakfast Kitchen
Viewing

• Side Entrance ● Downstairs Shower Room / Guest Cloakroom
• 3 Bedrooms ● Family Shower Room
• Block Paved Driveway ● Attractive Rear Garden ● Block Paved Driveway ● Viewing Recommended ●
OFFERS AROUND: **£154,950**

Elizabeth Walk, Tipton, DY4 Tipton

• Purpose Built Flat
• Ground Floor
• Upvc Double Glazing ● Electric Heating
• Ideal First Time Purchase / Buy To Let Investment
• Open Plan Lounge / Fitted Kitchen
Viewing

• 1 Bedroom ● Bathroom with additional shower cubicle
• Communal Gardens
• Well Presented Accommodation,
OFFERS AROUND: **£59,950**

Holcroft Street, Tipton, DY4

• End Terrace
• Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
• No Upward Chain ● Spacious Accommodation
• Reception Hall,
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£79,950**

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Andrew Road, West Bromwich, B71

• Semi Detached Dormer Bungalow
• 2 Ground Floor Bedrooms
• Lounge, Dining Area
• Kitchen, Wet Room,
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£169,000**

Adelaide Avenue West Bromwich

• Extended Semi Detached
• Three Bedrooms
• Lounge/Diner
• , Garage to Rear
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£130,000**

Clifford Road, West Bromwich, B70

• IN NEED OF MODERNISATION
• Three Bedrooms
• Mid Terraced
• Lounge,
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£100,000**

Crankhall Lane, West Bromwich, B71

• Modern build
• First floor apartment
• Two bedrooms
• En-suite shower room,
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£99,950**

Harvills Hawthorn, West Bromwich, B70

• Mid terraced
• Three bedrooms
• Two reception rooms
• Kitchen,
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£120,000**

The Broadway, West Bromwich, B71

• Semi-Detached Property
• Three Bedrooms
• Two Reception Rooms
• Conservatory,
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£145,000**

Witton Lane, West Bromwich, B71

• End terraced property
• 3 Bedrooms
• Lounge
• Large kitchen,
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£115,000**

Thompstone Road, West Bromwich, B71

• Mid Terraced
• Two Bedrooms
• Lounge
• Kitchen,
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£95,000**

Hampshire Road, West Bromwich, B71

• Semi Detached House
• Two Bedrooms
• Lounge
• Upstairs Family Bathroom,
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£115,000**

Delville Close, Wednesbury, WS10 NEW

□p>□b>SUMMARY□/b>GROUND FLOOR MAISONETTE - NO CHAIN. Accommodation featuring one double bedroom, lounge, kitchen & shower room. Externally, there are communal
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£60,000**

Vicar Street, Wednesbury, WS10 REDUCED

□p>□b>SUMMARY□/b>A TRADITIONAL END TERRACE RESIDENCE WITH ACCOMMODATION ARRANGED OVER THREE FLOORS & BEING OFFERED WITH NO ONGOING CHAIN - The
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£112,500**

Cope Street, Wednesbury, WS10 REDUCED

□p>□b>SUMMARY□/b>AN ATTRACTIVE DOUBLE FRONTED TERRACE RESIDENCE comprising three bedrooms, two reception rooms, first floor bathroom, kitchen & enclosed rear garden. VIEWING IS
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£95,000**

Windmill Street Wednesbury

A WELL PROPORTIONED TRADITIONAL MID TERRACE HOME BEING OFFERED WITH NO CHAIN. Accommodation features three bedrooms, two reception rooms, kitchen & ground floor bathroom.
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£114,950**

Longcroft Avenue, Wednesbury, WS10

□p>□b>SUMMARY□/b>NO UPWARD CHAIN! A MODERN STYLE DETACHED PROPERTY OFFERING ACCOMMODATION PRESENTED TO A HIGH STANDARD□b>DESCRIPTION□/b>NO UPWARD
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£170,000**

Shaftesbury Road, Wednesbury, WS10

□p>□b>SUMMARY□/b>TRADITIONAL EXTENDED PROPERTY WITH NO CHAIN - A spacious semi detached home set in a sought after residential location with accommodation featuring three bedrooms,
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£140,000**

Stafford Road, Wednesbury, WS10

□p>□b>SUMMARY□/b>NO CHAIN FREE & EXTENDED - A traditional semi detached home with accommodation featuring three bedrooms, two reception rooms, kitchen, first floor bathroom, fore garden
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£90,000**

Charlotte Road, Wednesbury, WS10

□p>□b>SUMMARY□/b>AN EXTENDED END TERRACE RESIDENCE BEING OFFERED WITH NO ONGOING CHAIN - Accommodation features three bedrooms, a lounge, dining room, kitchen, family
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£118,750**

Tame Crossing, Wednesbury, WS10

□p>□b>SUMMARY□/b>IMMACULATELY PRESENTED NO CHAIN FREE - A top floor apartment featuring two bedrooms, a spacious lounge & dining area, contemporary style kitchen & bathroom
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: **£103,500**

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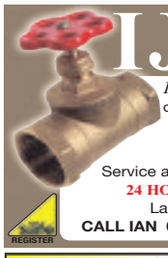

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AT C B SHEDS & FENCING We supply/fit, Free quotes. Supply sleepers & decking 01922 720270.

items for sale

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

items wanted

ALL GOLD 9CT £300 PER OUNCE
CASH PAID TODAY
A GENUINE LADY BUYER
All Beswick • Doulton • Worcester Moorcroft
•Lladro • Old coins
• WATCHES • COSTUME JEWELLERY
• Diamonds and Gold Coins • Clocks • Paintings
• ALL SILVER • All Oriental Items
Pre'47 silver coins All war medals etc
ANYTHING OLD & INTERESTING
01922 495066 or 07971 783206

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

pc's, laptops & accessories

CLIENT COMPUTERS
Certified technician & Microsoft partner.
Repair & maintain laptops and PCs. In West Midlands.
Virus removal, broken screens, wifi.
Windows problems etc.
Home visits or bring to me.
Long established.
Laptops available.
0121 556 9481

t.v. / home entertainment

service

AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST Any TV Repairs, Plasma, LED etc, CCTV cameras supplied & fitted. Any area. Free Estimates. 7 days. Digital aerials, Sky installation, Wall mounts / TV setups. 07850 330251.

specialists at your service

appliance repairs

A SAME DAY REPAIR - Cookers Autos Fridges Vacs and Micros. Call 07900 578897 / 07801 746853.

aerials

ClassifiedAds
BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

CLASSIFIEDS HELPED ME...
I am very pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising Contract
Steve - AA Digital Aerials
FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL
01902 319 191
Brought to you by **Express & Star**

AA DIGITAL AERIALS
AERIALS FITTED FROM £75
WE'LL BEAT ANY QUOTE
Work Guaranteed
01902 858191
01384 429166
01543 439095
01922 716029
07833 738857
VISA
CheckATrade.com

alarms/security

PREMIER ALARMS
Supplied and Fitted £195
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

building services

DAVIES & SON BUILDERS
Over 35 years experience in the industry
All aspects of building work including: Extensions, loft conversions, roofing, driveways & landscaping.
Discounts offered.
01902 579592 / 07837 994465

AD DAMP PROOFING
All damp problems, roofing, all building & plastering work.
FREE QUOTES
APPROVED CONTRACTOR
07538 118034 or 01902 752161

carpentry & joinery

CARPENTRY AND JOINERY Kitchens, fitted wardrobes, doors, flooring, staircases and refurbs. 07903 234137 or 0121 4939733.

carpet & upholstery cleaning

A CLASS CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING
OAP discount. **Recession Prices.**
Unbeatable Value: Rooms cleaned from £10
Call Paul 07870 341089

carpet fitters

A CARPETS & VINYLS supplied or just fitted, quality samples brought to your home, no job too small, free quotes call Mark 01543 820598/07941 619694.

gates

ALL METAL GATES,RAILINGS, etc. Free quotes, also repairs & fitting. 07903 500642 24 hours.

DARLASTON FABS 30 years exp in supplying/ fitting gates and railings. Free quotes: 07497 667752.

gardening services

H COOPER & SON LANDSCAPING
WE CAN TRANSFORM OR MAINTAIN YOUR GARDEN
- Garden Walls
- Patios
- Fencing
- Turfing
- General Gardening

For high quality jobs done with pride and at a very fair price.
NO JOB TOO SMALL
Call: 07904 929632

fencing

PORTWAY FENCING
SPECIAL OFFER
10 bays of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards **£695**
HEAVY DUTY PANELS SUPPLIED AND FITTED
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
Sat 8am - 12noon
83 Portway Rd, W'bury
DELIVERY AVAILABLE
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

gas fitting

GAS SERVICES
- Boilers
- Cookers
- Fires
- Gas Checks
- Landlord Certificates
- Gas Leaks Traced

Fitted, Serviced and Repaired
Same Day Service
Free Quotes
DISCOUNTS FOR OAPs
Call: 01902 366855/ 07761 973975

READERS ARE ADVISED
To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered.
It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

handyman services

YOUR LOCAL HANDYMAN
FREE QUOTES
All work guaranteed, Most trades covered, References available on request. No job too big or too small!
CALL MIKE: 07947 621047
0121 6010479

ClassifiedAds
BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

CLASSIFIEDS HELPED ME...
I average around 1 to 2 phone calls a day from customers as a direct result of my Classified Advertising. I am very happy with my response levels.
Mr Causer.
FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL
01902 319 191
Brought to you by **Express & Star**

LOCK AND CARPENTRY plumbing, plastering, slabbing and roofing 01902 683100 or 07935 906384.

painters / decorators

DECORATOR
ALL domestic work undertaken
Reliable & Affordable
Special rates for OAPs
No job too SMALL
Call
07957 346 059

A PROFESSIONAL DECORATING service by RC Decorating. Free competitive quotes: 07773 025880.

C&D DECORATING City & Guilds / Wallpapering. Tiling and Flooring. Free quotes, call 07973 286288.

house clearances

A1 HOUSE CLEARANCE
Full, part and single rubbish removed.
Garage and sheds cleared.
Leather 3 piece suites and leather chesterfields wanted.
01922 492007

A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. **07852 172641 / 07710 360327**

plans prepared

ADAM DESIGN, Building Plans. Drawn and submitted to council. Tel: 01902 620200 / 07841 654037. Email: adamdesign@sky.com

plastering

STEVES PLASTERING SERVICE Clean and Reliable, All Work Undertaken, All Areas. Call 0121 567 5919 / 07977 262943.

removals

KT REMOVALS
12 years experience.
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:
07771 727119

A MAN WITH A VAN Single items, flat/house removals/clearances, local/nationwide. Call Steve 0121 422 2999 or 07815 043724

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

CALL PETE - MAN WITH A VAN, Removals, clearances, large/small. 01902 741546, 07899 635852.

roofing

MG ROOFING Flat roofs, tiling, roof repairs, fascias and gutters. Call 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.

skip hire

ClassifiedAds
BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

GRINSELLS SKIP HIRE

CLASSIFIEDS HELPED ME...
Thanks to our Classified advertising in the Express & Star we are really busy! It definitely works for us!
Grinsells Skip Hire.
FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL
01902 319 191
Brought to you by **Express & Star**

A absolute affordable skip
RUSSELL SKIPS
Mini, midi skips
Prompt delivery / collection
(0121) 520 3388 / 07721 387990

GOLDSHILL SKIPS
Bring your own waste cheaper than skips. General, Green, Wood waste any size vehicle. Phone for prices:
0121 557 3346

STONES SKIP HIRE
0121 557 1480 / 07886 721875
www.stoneskiphire.co.uk

tree services

BUDGET TREE SURGERY Tall or small. Conifers & hedge trimming. Shrubs pruned, tidy ups & make overs 01215053558/ 07936882552

4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

pets corner

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

vets

Express & Star
THIS SPACE COULD BE PROMOTING YOUR BUSINESS
Every day our customers get a great response from Classified Advertising.
So could you by calling our friendly experienced Sales Advisors on 01902 319191.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

commercial premises sale / let

WEDNESFIELD: SHOP TO LET. Full security with storage. Stock sale optional. WV11 3LL. £650 per month. 07720 800834.

business directory

commercial premises

STORAGE UNITS TO LET
800sqft and 1600sqft.
Burntwood area.
Ring Michael Bailey, 07538 867585.

UNITS AND OFFICE SPACE to let in Oldbury, West Bromwich and Walsall. Easy Terms. Ashmore Properties 0121 520 5318.

BUY LOCAL SELL LOCAL
01902 317878

ClassifiedAds

6 Property

accommodation to let

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

ROOMS & STUDIOS from £65pw inc most bills, no deposit, available immediately! 07884 185580.

SINGLE ROOM in shared male house, fully furnished, Chasetown area. £70 weekly, fully inclusive of all services. 07903 050340.

mobile homes

OMAR FULLY RESIDENTIAL PARK HOME
Situated on Little Marsh Park in the village of Penkridge, newly fitted kitchen, new carpets throughout, new combi boiler and radiators, grassed garden area, with parking. Ready to move in to.
Telephone for further details on 07810 044813 or 07801 530894.

overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

properties wanted

WE PAY 100% of purchase price EVERY TIME!

BLACK COUNTRY HOMES

Sell your HOUSE - SIMPLE

You agree the price, we buy the house.

- NO AGENTS FEES
- COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU
- FREE SOLICITORS
- ANY HOUSE, ANY CONDITION

30 yrs

0800 999 999 6

or 01384 226086 24/7 www.black-countryhomes.co.uk

CASH NOW wolverhampton properties

FOR YOUR HOUSE
- Legal Fees Paid
- No Fees
- Any Condition
- Guaranteed Offer
- Repossessions Stopped

We can buy your house in 2 days

0800 389 6788

01902 628047 Lines open 24 hours a day 7 days a week subject to terms

Any Property Wanted

PROUDLY REGULATED BY:

100% Price Promise

- GENUINE CASH BUYERS
- ANY CONDITION
- FAST RELIABLE SERVICE
- NO COSTS TO YOU
- COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU

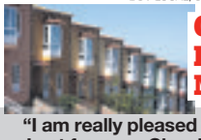
A BLACK COUNTRY COMPANY RUN BY WOMEN!

0800 634 7059 24/7

or 0121 487 0300

www.anypropertywanted.co.uk

ClassifiedAds BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL



CLASSIFIEDS HELPED ME...

"I am really pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising!"

Paul Westwood - Home Cash Buyer

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL 01902 319 191 Brought to you by Express & Star

Need to sell your home fast?

Purchase Agreed Within 7 DAYS

We can help you make a fresh start

With solutions to suit ... you can clear your debts and make a fresh start

- ALL CIRCUMSTANCES CONSIDERED
- COMPLETE ON DATE TO SUIT
- FREE VALUATION AND LEGALS
- FREE FRIENDLY ADVICE
- LOCAL COMPANY

MARION | PROPERTY SOLUTIONS

WHY NOT CALL US TODAY for an informal, friendly and confidential chat?

*Terms and Conditions apply

0121 405 0767 OUR LINES ARE OPEN 24/7

Home Cash Buyer

Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish

£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££

Houses / Land Required

Ring Paul 24/7 Local 07870 341 089

Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154

Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049

Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901

www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

ClassifiedAds BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

BLACK COUNTRY HOMES

CLASSIFIEDS HELPED ME...

We have been advertising in the Express & Star and Chronicles for over 20 years and consider it a key part of our business with the regular flow of calls, which our advertising generates.

Black Country Homes

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL 01902 319 191 Brought to you by Express & Star

7 Jobs

childcare

EXPERIENCED, QUALIFIED NURSERY NURSE required for day nursery in Penn. Call Janine on 01902 341 676

courses

ADR COURSES WITH CRH Now back in the Black Country. From W/C 26th Sept 0121 3231777

drivers

HGV CLASS 2 CRANE DRIVER general haulage. UK work, good rates. Call 07973 493720

employment wanted

ADMIN /RECEPTION/GENERAL OFFICE WORK WANTED

Smart lady, 50, seeks perm/ temp role. Excellent references. Walsall & surrounding areas. **07976 888820/01922 635813.** goodman1921@hotmail.co.uk

office & secretarial

EXPERIENCED OFFICE Assistant, Full time permanent. Knowledge of IT & accounts desirable, working closely with MD in busy Dudley office. Excellent remuneration. Email CV to jim@big-in-beds.co.uk for interview

part time - general

PART TIME ENTHUSIASTIC HANDY PERSON/ GARDENER

required for day nursery in Merridale. 25 hours per week, must be flexible as some work may be required outside of nursery hours. Experience of general repairs essential. Clean driving licence required and the successful applicant will be subject to a DBS (police check) .

Call Claire between 9.30 and 4.30 Monday to Friday on 07779 119235.

full time - general

Express & Star

BE A LOCAL **STAR**

Sales Relationship Merchandiser

Do you have an eye for detail, are you self - motivated, enthusiastic and are able to communicate effectively and with confidence.

The Express and Star are looking for a sales relationship merchandiser to join our team helping to grow audience, strengthen the relationship with retailers, readers and ensure the brand experience is positive.

Working within a busy customer focused environment, the successful applicant will work as part of a team, in designated territories, you will be required to ensure that all our titles are available, in key strategic positions to maximise response and exposure.

Previous sales or merchandising experience in the FMCG market is desirable, but not essential. The ability to react quickly and positively to a wide variety of situations is required. A professional attitude must be displayed at all times. You must have a full current driving licence, transport will be provided.

In return we offer full training and support, an annual salary of £8,360, 25 days holiday per year and enrolment into the company pension scheme.

The position is 20 hours per week worked across 5 days between Monday-Saturday, weekends and Bank Holiday working will be required on a rota basis.

if you would like to be considered for this role please send your cv and covering letter to: **HR Department Midland News Association, Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES** or by e-mail to: **hr@mnamedia.co.uk**

sales & marketing

SALES / ADMIN PERSON REQUIRED

for steel stockholders. Must be experienced in engineering bar sales. Salary negotiable. All applications treated in the strictest of confidence.

Postal applications only to :-

Clarke Steels Ltd
Unit 3
Interlux Business Park
204 Oldbury Road
West Bromwich
West Midlands, B70 9DE

8 Motoring

cars over £1500

FIAT PANDA POP

2013, 19,282 miles, red, abs, electric windows, air bag, air con, fsh, alarm, long MoT, metallic paint, central locking, one owner, pas, stereo, CD.

£3,495 ono.

07815 441155.

PEUGEOT 207 SPORTIUM

2012, 1.4, petrol, 3-dr, grey, 24,800 miles, one owner from new, MoT and FSH. 2 remote keys. Excellent condition. **£4,100. 07779 430146.**

MERCEDES C230 AVANTGARDE SE AUTO

February 2005. MoT June 2017. Lady owner. Bright Silver. Black leather trim. Electric seats/windows. Folding mirrors. Fully loaded. Absolute stunning car. **£2,200 o.n.o. 0121 357 1634.**

NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA

2009, electric windows, electric mirrors, air con, alarm, MoT, cruise control, 1.5 diesel, CD, Top Spec- BlueTooth Phone

£4,495.00 ono

07976653388

TOYOTA RAV 4

2005, 70,000 miles, black, abs, electric windows, air bag, air con, MoT, central locking, cruise control, sunroof. **£3,195 ono. 07958 215758.**

cars under £1500

BMA Est. Here 25 Years

Cars from £500

With Full Mot's and Warranties

OPEN EVERY DAY

07956 988517

Dale Street, Bilston, WV14 7JY

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

FIAT PUNTO ACTIVE

1.2, 3-dr, 2007 reg, grey, Only 61,000 miles. Service history, 2 owners. Full 12 months MoT, Outstanding condition. **Only £1,395. 07963 464780.**

BARGAIN

VAUXHALL ASTRA 100 CLUB

Black, 04 plate, 92,000 miles, MoT May 2017, new cam belt, new battery, good condition inside and out.

Very good runner.

£550 o.n.o.

0121 558 6223

or

07712 737921.

VAUXHALL CORSA COMFORT, 2002, 94,193 miles, blue/green, MoT Nov 2017, £850 ono. 01922 413494.

commercial vehicles

FORD TRANSIT 300, TD, LWB, panel van, 2003, MoT'd, £1,450. 07768 841443.

driving tuition

Homer's

10 Hours £125! Four Hours £40! 2 Hours £20! All Areas Covered

ADI/PDI REQUIRED. Gift vouchers available for £10

07432 458100 / 01562 870050
01384 234954 / 0121 5640090
01902 580065 www.homersdrivingschool.co.uk

motorbikes

A BONNEVILLE wanted, early 60's, any condition, up to £8,000 paid. Call Colin 01543 422237.

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

vehicles wanted

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, buyer will call.

MCB

TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS

Tel: 01902 408176

1000's of parts available at all times

MONMORE RD. WV1 2TZ

ABC AUTO SALVAGE WANTED URGENT

Scrap & MOT Failures Best Prices Paid ELV Registered Spares Always Available **0121 557 0800 or 0121 557 0400. Oldbury Area.**

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

Orbis Limited of 93-99 Great Bridge Street, West Bromwich B70 0DA is applying for a licence to use 93-99 Great Bridge Street, West Bromwich B70 0DA as an operating centre for TWO goods vehicles and TWO trailers.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

Dated: November 10, 2016

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES

For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to **Marie Hogg on 01902 713146 or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk** (remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

10 Personals

personal

ATTRACTIVE, lonely Female seeking broadminded males within a 20 mile radius. 01902 489 181.

sports clubs

BUSH VIKINGS UNDER 15's

Are looking for a Goalkeeper to strengthen our existing squad.

We play in the Walsall Junior Youth League, division 2, we have our own pitch, club house and training rooms.

We are a very friendly one team club who just love playing the beautiful game.

Contact Darrell (Coach) 01922 694673 or 07963 623917.

general

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

MODELS REQUIRED

To do amateur photographic work.

West Bromwich area.

For details Call 07759 804772.

highways england

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984-SECTION 14(1)(a) THE M5 MOTORWAY (OLDBURY TO HALESOWEN) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2016

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Highways England Company Limited (Company No. 9346363) has made an Order on the M5 Motorway, between Oldbury and Halesowen, in the Metropolitan Boroughs of Dudley and Sandwell, to allow street lighting repairs, sign inspections and testing works to be carried out.

The effect of the Order will be to close, at different times, the slip roads leading–

a) to and from the northbound carriageway of the M5 at Junction 2;
b) to and from the northbound carriageway of the M5 at Junction 3;
c) to and from the southbound carriageway of the M5 at Junction 2; and
d) to and from the southbound carriageway of the M5 at Junction 3.

The work will be carried out overnight between 20:30 hours and 06:00 hours and is expected to start on Wednesday 16 November 2016 and continue for 10 nights. The Order will come into force on 14 November 2016.

Vehicles being used for police, fire brigade or ambulance purposes and vehicles being used in connection with the works, for winter maintenance purposes or by a traffic officer, will be exempt from the closure.

Diversion routes via alternative junctions of the M5 will be signed.

For further information, please contact Marcus Peart on 0300 470 3291.

Karen Eustace, an officer in Highways England Company Limited.

Highways England Company Limited (Company No. 9346363) registered office: Bridge House, Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, GU1 4LZ. A Company registered in England and Wales.

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Crankhall Lane, Wednesbury) (Temporary Road Closure No.2) Order 2016, has made an Order to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along Crankhall Lane, Wednesbury between the buses and cyclists only section of Friar Park Road and the south side of Kier Road. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 16/12/16, effective from 14/11/16. Traffic will be diverted via the buses and cyclists only section of Friar Park Road (the terms of which will be suspended for the duration of this road closure), Freeman Road, Manor Road and vice-versa. Purpose – continuing works to repair a collapsed sewer by Amey (on behalf of Severn Trent Water).

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The council proposes to construct a new Puffin Crossing at Sedgley Road East, Tipton. A copy of the map showing full details of the proposed locations of the new crossings may be inspected at the offices of the Area Director Regeneration & Economy, Sandwell Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, B69 3DE during normal office hours. Representations in writing, stating your grounds, to Mr Robin Weare, Service Manager Highways, at Freeth Street address or email to: simon_chadwick@sandwell.gov.uk by 01/12/2016.

SHOP with Express & Star

Order from the comfort of your own home
0871 911 7011
www.expressandstarshop.co.uk

Retro Briefcase Turntable

Only £59.99 plus £4.95 P&P

SAVE £70 was £129.99

Red | Blue | Black | Union Flag | Brown Faux Leather

Enjoy the sound of vinyl wherever you are through the twin stereo speakers of this portable retro turntable. This briefcase-styled music system allows you to play and convert your records to digital files, preserving your music collection forever. The turntable will play 33s, 45s and 78s. Once you have finished listening to your music, simply close the briefcase to easily transport it from place to place.

D9605 Black D9606 Red D9607 Blue
D9608 Brown Faux Leather D9609 Union Flag D7928 Spare Stylus £9.99

Desk Edition Crossword Solver

Only £34.99 plus £4.95 P&P

Word phrases and anagrams all become clear with this Seiko Oxford crossword solver. With a 250,000 word database from the Oxford crossword dictionary, you can find the answers you are looking for in seconds. Check a name, date or fact and search through its 256 general knowledge lists for the answer.

The spellchecker provides instant phonetic correction, plus there's 10 word games, a thesaurus, calculator, an abbreviation solver and an imperial metric converter featuring lengths, weights, temperature and liquid measures. Presented in an attractive desktop case with large high contrast display, clear fonts, large buttons and auto power off. Batteries included.

D6447 Desk Edition Crossword Solver

SEIKO

Set of Six Erasable Pens

Only £9.99 plus £3.95 P&P

SAVE £15

Easily correct any mistakes with this set of six erasable ballpoint pens. Simply use the rubber eraser to remove any unwanted scribbling, leaving behind no trace of eraser dust or marks on the paper. Pen lines disappear immediately, making them ideal for completing crosswords, word puzzles and Sudoku neatly.

Two red, two black and two blue pens included. A refill set is also available. Was £24.99

D6609 Set of Erasable Pens £9.99
D6610 Set of 12 Erasable Pen Refills £4.99

12-pack of Loose Top Socks

SAVE £22 was £46.99

Only £24.99 plus £2.95 P&P

C317 Men's C318 Men's

These calf length, loose top socks are manufactured without elastic by leading brand HJ Hall to ensure a comfortable wear and leave no unsightly marks on the skin or pinch calves or ankles. They will gently hold up without any discomfort or pain. Supplied in a pack of 12 assorted colours, they are made of 80 per cent cotton and 20 per cent nylon. Men's socks fit sizes 6-11 and are available in two pack options.

C317: 3 Black, 3 Navy, 3 Grey and 3 Oatmeal
C318: 2 Black, 2 Navy, 2 Oatmeal, 2 Brown, 2 Red and 2 mid-grey

HJHall

Order Hotline 0871 911 7011*

8am-8pm, 7 days a week. *Calls cost 13p per minute plus your phone company's access charge.

Quote 67266

Order online at expressandstarshop.co.uk

Our 'was' pricing refers to the original selling prices offered on our website www.cjoffers. co.uk, and in our retail store between 1st August – 1st November 2016.. Allow 7 working days for delivery. If not happy for any reason we will accept return of faulty/unused goods in sealed original packaging for full refund or replacement within 30 days. These goods are sold and supplied by BVG-Airflo Ltd. with whom you contract when you accept this offer. A SIGNATURE IS REQUIRED ON DELIVERY.

RETURN TO: EXPRESS & STAR (67266), PO BOX 87, BRECON, LD3 3BE

Title (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) _____ Initial _____ Surname _____

Address _____ Postcode _____

Email _____ Tel. (for queries only) _____

I enclose my cheque/PO made payable to BVG-AIRFLO LTD for £_____ Or please debit my card £_____ ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ Maestro Issue No _____

My card number is:

Start date: / Expiry date: / Security Number:

"Midland News Association Ltd and other MNA companies or selected third parties may contact you with details of goods and services you may be interested in. By placing this order you give consent to Midland News Association Limited or selected third parties doing so, unless you have indicated your objection by ticking this box ☐ if you do not want to hear from selected third parties and ticking this box ☐ if you do not want to hear from Midland News Association Ltd."

PLEASE SEND ME	CODE(S)	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL
			POSTAGE	£2.95/ £3.95/£4.95
			TOTAL	

MOTORING | YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO THE BEST CARS ON THE MARKET

Major revisions for Skoda's best-seller

Škoda has made major revisions to its best-selling model, the Octavia. Available early 2017 in the UK, the model features a newly designed front and rear section, state-of-the-art driver assistance systems, infotainment and connectivity, as well as additional new equipment which further enhance the Octavia's appeal. The compact model is available in hatch and estate form.

"The Škoda Octavia has always been in a class of its own in the compact segment," says Škoda CEO Bernhard Maier. "As the 'heart of the brand', the Octavia has decisively shaped Škoda's outstanding development from the very start, and has made the company what it is today: an internationally successful automotive manufacturer with a presence in more than 100 markets worldwide. With the now extensively revised Škoda Octavia, we are keen to continue this development sustainably."

The Octavia is the Czech automaker's best-selling model. At the upper end of its segment, Škoda's bestseller has set new standards in terms of space, functionality, safety and comfort technology, design and value for money. In the 20 years since the 1996 reintroduction of the Octavia, five million customers from all over the world have opted for an Octavia.

The lines have been further streamlined, especially at the front. The two adjacent headlights form the dual face with a crystalline look and feature full-LED technology. The brand logo has gained even more presence, with the front of the car featuring a more powerful and wider appearance.

The space available in the revised Škoda Octavia remains one of the largest in its class. Both the saloon and estate offer 1,782 millimetres of interior space and 73 millimetres of legroom in the rear. Their luggage compartments measure 590 and 610 litres, respectively; with folded rear seat backrests up to 1,580 and 1,740 litres respectively. There is an optional electric tailgate available for Octavia estate.

The lines on the revised Octavia have been streamlined, especially at the front

Space available remains one of the largest in its class

The revision has brought new infotainment systems. All three systems now have capacitive displays in glass design that respond to light touch. Octavia is also moving ahead with assistance systems.

If the car is used as a towing vehicle, the trailer assistant will take over the steering when the vehicle is slowly reversing. Predictive pedestrian protection complements Front Assist. In addition, the parking assistant has been further optimised.

Thanks to the rear radar, Blind Spot Detection and Rear Traffic Alert ensure safe lane changes and also help while reversing out of a parking space. The rear-view camera displays the car's immediate surroundings via the on-board monitor.

New features have been added to the 'Simply Clever' solutions: a customisable key, allowing multiple users to save their own vehicle settings, as well as a heated steering wheel, bottle holders which facilitate the opening of bottles, and the estate version features a removable torch in the boot.

The two TSI and two TDI engines available from launch in the UK are: 1.0 TSI 115PS, 1.4 TSI 150PS, 1.6 TDI 115PS and 2.0 TDI 150PS. For almost all engines in the revised Škoda Octavia, a DSG transmission with six or seven gears is available in addition to manual transmission.

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Mixture of brawn and sophistication

Listen to the birds chirping with the hood down

Fold the roof away to listen to the engine

By Ian Donaldson

IT was very nearly worth the imminent onset of hypothermia to hear the rasp of this BMW's exhausts with roof lowered and throttle pressed with conviction.

Eventually the wind chill called a halt for roof erection (electrically, in seconds) but not before the car had registered a beguiling mix of brawn and sophistication.

Many people choose a drop top for its looks and the chance to hear the birds chirping and people mowing their lawns on a sunny summer's day.

Not so many want a near limitless stream of power that turns this ragtop into a genuine performance machine. For those that do, BMW will happily supply a new M240i, in coupe or cabriolet shape.

Sitting at the top of the BMW 2 Series range, the twosome gain a more powerful engine than before, up by 14 horses to a not inconsiderable 340 horsepower. That shaves 0.3 seconds off the zero to 62mph time – now 4.7 seconds if you choose an automatic gearbox – and quite enough to provide all the thrills you'll ever need on the way to work.

Or on some deserted stretch of smooth continental mountain pass, where you could knock the auto 'box (eight speeds and £1,600 extra) into manual and control the changes from the paddles behind the chunky leather wrapped steering wheel. Best to do this with the roof folded away, the better to hear the exhaust note's angry bark as each change goes through and the horizon fast forwards towards you.

Top speeds in all versions of the M140i and M240i are electronically limited to 155mph, which ought to be sufficient even on a clear stretch of unrestricted autobahn.

The twin turbocharged six-cylinder engines powering these mid-sized fun machines have been worked on by BMW's engineers so that there's improved economy and emissions along with the power lift. It means a reduction of up to seven per cent in the official average fuel consumption, with an impressive 39.8mpg with auto gears in the M140i and M240i Coupe and 38.2mpg for the heavier Convertible. CO2 figures are 163 and 169g/km for auto boxed cars and a bit worse (179/189) for models fitted with the six-speed manual gearbox.

Cleverly, BMW points out that prices for these more powerful newcomers remain unchanged (M140i £31,875, M240i Coupe £35,090, M240i Convertible £38,535) but running costs for anyone paying company car tax are down, thanks to the cleaner tailpipe emissions.

The M Sport versions talked about here all have firmer suspension but the Convertible has its own settings, a little softer to help cut to a minimum the near inevitable shimmy on bad roads caused when you chop the metal roof off a car and replace it with canvas. Even on poor roads you hardly notice and the delights of open top motoring (if you're so inclined) more than compensate for the modest extra vibration felt through the wheel.

Whichever version you choose there's a typical BMW cockpit awaiting you, where function wins over extravagant looks every time. It results in a cabin lacking the obvious glamour of a recent Mercedes, for instance, but one where the driver is very much king of his powerful empire. And it all works nicely, from clear digital speed readout to a big central screen, which can connect you to the outside world via a built-in SIM card and for £900 through a Professional navigation system (a simpler system is standard) that updates data free.

Not that getting lost behind the lovely six-cylinder engine would always be a bad thing. Keep the hood down and take the long way home.

AT A GLANCE

BMW M240i Convertible

Engine: 3.0 litre petrol engine, 335bhp

Warranty: Three years, unlimited mileage

Economy: The M240i can do 38.2mpg officially

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Sandwell Chronicle Thursday, November 10, 2016

The current Fiesta is eight years old but still looks fresh

Sporty-looking ST Line is a refresh of the Zetec S

By James Parker

Ford's Zetec S trim level has been replaced by the sporty-looking ST Line. We went to find out whether the car's appeal has increased as a result.

Less than you might think. This is the Fiesta we all know and love, and though the Ford dealer may tell you that ST-Line is an all-new trim level, the truth is that this is actually just a rebadged Zetec S.

Okay, that may be over-simplifying things a tad – the ST-Line's arrival has prompted a little bit of a refresh – but it isn't far off.

So what do you get for your (not inconsiderable) £15,795 outlay? Well, Ford will tell you that the deal-clincher is the ST-inspired bodykit, but you also get flashy alloys, lowered sports suspension and the Fiesta's excellent 1.0-litre EcoBoost petrol engine. Oh, and there's a handful of ST-Line badges thrown in, too

The current Fiesta may effectively be eight years old now, but it still looks as fresh as a daisy. The gaping grille, sharp lines and perfect proportions have seen it top the UK sales charts month in, month out, and it shows no signs of stopping.

This ST-Line version certainly isn't about to damage that record. The full-blown ST looks fantastic, and this less powerful version gets some well-judged trimmings inspired by that 180bhp flagship. The suspension, which drops the ride height by 10mm, gives it a squat and sporty stance that's supplemented by the boy-racer grille, skirts and spoiler, but it's never too over the top. It isn't brash or vulgar, just a really smartly styled machine.

If there is a sticking point, it will be the interior, which looks like someone fired a blunderbuss full of buttons at the dashboard. Everywhere you look there's a button, apart from the tiny little infotainment screen at the top, and the cabin plastics all look a bit old and out-moded. Of course, this isn't a flaw specific to the ST-Line car, but you would have hoped that Ford could have sorted it all out a few years ago.

The ST-Line trim mostly adds aesthetic tweaks, rather than practical ones, so the normal Fiesta's dimensions have been retained. That means you've got plenty of room in the front, but rear passengers will feel a tad cramped. It's fine for children back there, but the lack of headroom means adults probably wouldn't want to sit there for long. Further back, the boot's 290-litre volume puts it marginally ahead of its key rival, the VW Polo, but it still trails behind the likes of the Skoda Fabia and Honda Jazz.

One of the main reasons for the Fiesta's success has been the way it drives, and the ST-Line car is no different. The lowered sports suspension does make it slightly firmer than a bog-standard Fiesta, but it doesn't get really jiggly unless you're going fast on a rough road. More importantly, though, the lower ride makes the car more responsive in the corners and less prone to body roll thanks to the lower centre of gravity.

With the 123bhp version of the 1.0-litre EcoBoost engine providing the power, our test car also proved perky enough to raise a smile without being scarily rapid. Like the Zetec S before it, the ST-Line really is a pint-sized barrel of non-threatening fun.

ST-Line prices start from just under £15,800, and for that you get three doors and a 99bhp version of the 1.0-litre EcoBoost engine that's nippier than it sounds. Standard kit includes 17-inch alloys, a 4.2-inch infotainment screen and a heated windscreen, plus all the aforementioned ST-Line accoutrements.

A more tempting proposition may well be the 123bhp version of the little EcoBoost engine found in our test car. It's only a £500 option and it cuts the 0-62mph time from 11.2 seconds to 9.4. It transforms the car from a smart-looking runabout to a genuine warm hatch. There's a 138bhp EcoBoost, too, but that's £300 more expensive than the 123bhp engine and only shaves a few tenths of a second from the 0-62mph time.

All the EcoBoost engines are relatively economical, with even the most powerful managing 62.8mpg on the combined cycle, but if you want something even more parsimonious, you can always have the 1.5-litre diesel engine. With 94bhp on tap, it's the slowest engine of the four, but the 11.7-second sprint to 62mph is respectable and the 78.5mpg economy is very attractive. The biggest catch is the £1,100 premium it commands over the 99bhp EcoBoost.

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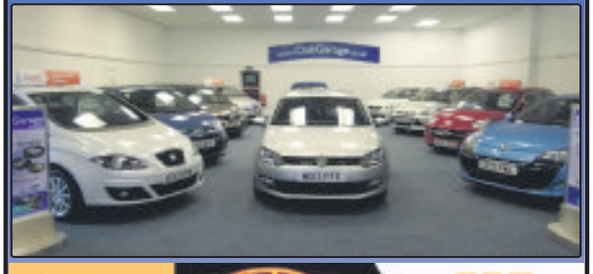

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The Celerio has deeply sculpted flanks

The front grille is unusual with a three-bar design

The core engine in the Suzuki Celerio range is a 1.0-litre three-cylinder petrol unit developing a total of 66bhp at 6,000rpm and 89Nm of torque at 3,500rpm, so you're going to need to give the throttle pedal a bit of treatment to get anywhere. Especially if you opt for it with the brand's efficient AGS automatic gearbox. This system features an Intelligent Shift

Control Actuator positioned at the top of the transmission that operates the gearshift and clutch automatically. With AGS, the driver can enjoy the ease driving of an automatic in city traffic, but without any loss in fuel efficiency or increase in CO2 emissions that would normally be the case with a conventional torque converter equipped automatic transmission. There's even a low speed 'creep' facility which allows the car to move in gear without the accelerator being applied, ideal in slow traffic and when parking.

The alternative Celerio powerplant is another 1.0-litre petrol unit with the same output, this one using Suzuki's more efficient Dualjet technology. Power goes to the front wheels via a five-speed manual gearbox at first, but we suspect that most UK buyers will want to talk to their dealer about matching the Dualjet engine technology to Suzuki's Auto Gear Shift (AGS).

The Celerio probably isn't going to turn too many heads, being a fairly generic-looking citycar in the modern mould. That's not to say its styling lacks merit, just that it's nothing too adventurous. The most notable flourishes are probably the deeply sculpted flanks, with an arcing swage line that runs just below the door handles. The front grille is unusual, with a three-bar design that kinks upwards at each extremity into the big headlight pods.

Prices start at around £7,000 for the SZ2 version, rising to around £9,000 for the plushest SZ4. If you're happy with the mid-range SZ3, then your dealer will offer you the option of Suzuki's more efficient 'Dualjet' 1.0-litre petrol engine – for a price premium of around £500. If instead, you had your eye on the top SZ4, there's the advantage that this trim level comes with the option of efficient AGS automatic transmission – for an £800 premium. This system features an Intelligent Shift Control Actuator positioned at the top of the gearbox that operates the gearshift and clutch automatically.

Standard specification highlights for the Celerio SZ3 include six airbags, ESP stability control, air conditioning, alloy wheels, DAB Radio, CD Tuner, USB, Bluetooth connectivity and remote central locking. The even higher equipped SZ4 model adds polished alloy wheels, rear electric windows, front fog lamps, body coloured door mirrors and chrome front grille.

The standard 1.0-litre triple engine makes some very respectable figures, eking 65.7 miles from a gallon of unleaded and emitting just 99g/km of carbon dioxide. Go for the AGS-equipped automatic model and there's no running cost penalty.

If you're happy with a stick-shift and don't mind a modest £500 price premium, then Suzuki's more modern Dualjet 1.0-litre petrol engine is a better bet in this car. This engine incorporates twin fuel injectors for improved fuel economy; Dualjet technology positions the fuel injectors very close to the engine inlet valves and allows for a finer fuel mixture which in turn provides a more effective transfer into the engine. This unit also incorporates a stop start facility when stationary. In Dualjet form, this Suzuki's combined cycle fuel consumption improves to 78.5mpg, while the CO2 return is enhanced to 84g/km. That'll make such a Celerio the cleanest and most fuel efficient new car on sale for less than £10,000.

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Official Fuel Consumption Figures for the Suzuki Celerio range mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km): Urban 55.3-68.9 (5.3-4.1), Extra Urban 76.3-83.0 (3.7-3.4), Combined 65.7-78.4 (4.3-3.6), CO_2 emissions 99-84 g/km.

The above fuel consumption figures are based on an EU test for comparative purposes only and may not reflect real driving results. For full details contact your local participating Suzuki Dealer. All prices and specifications correct at time of going to print. *Celerio range – Celerio 1.0 SZ2 Petrol Manual available at £6,999 to Celerio 1.0 SZ4 Petrol AGS available at £9,949. For full details contact your local participating Suzuki Dealer. Offer subject to availability for vehicles privately registered between 1st October to 31st December 2016 from participating Authorised Suzuki Dealers only. Offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers. Model shown: Celerio SZ2 (metallic paint available at £415).

Search/SuzukiCarsUK

The i30 has a strong rear end design with a sculpted and three-dimensional appearance

Hyundai reveals the new generation i30

The new generation i30 is a smart choice for those seeking an appealing design, high build quality, an efficient and dynamic ride and a state-of-the-art safety package.

The new i30 comes with more active safety features than any other Hyundai vehicle and its long-term reliability is guaranteed by the unique and industry-leading five year unlimited mileage warranty.

A comfortable and dynamic driving experience with a large choice of efficient and dynamic powertrains, the new i30 supports very agile and responsive handling and is the first Hyundai car to feature the new turbo-charged petrol engine, the 1.4 T-GDI with 140 PS.

It is more than just one model. It will become a family of unique products united by a timeless and balanced design perfectly harmonised and coherent for every body type. The i30 family will feature the first high performance model under Hyundai Motor's N brand which will go into production in 2017.

The i30 further evolves Hyundai's design language with natural flowing lines, refined surfaces and a sculpted body to create a timeless and confident appearance. Hyundai Motor is introducing a new design element: the cascading grille, which will become the new family identity for Hyundai models in the future.

The front of the car is confident and expressive, creating a recognisable presence on the road. The grille features chrome-plated dots for a sophisticated appearance enhancing the satin chrome surrounding of the standard version.

Dynamic

With its harmonious proportions, short front and rear overhangs, a long bonnet with a moved back A pillar, the car has a dynamic and compact stance on the road. The slightly sloping roofline and the black rear spoiler make the new i30 look even more dynamic and compact. The sleek design is also reflected in the aerodynamics with a coefficient of drag of only 0.30.

Its strong rear end design with a sculpted and three-dimensional appearance featuring a signature light graphic incorporating the high-positioned reflectors and fog lamps sets the car apart on the road. The car is available with 17-inch two tone 10-spoke alloy wheels, 16-inch two-tone 10-spoke alloy wheels or 15-inch steel and alloy wheels.

The interior is clear and intuitive with a horizontal layout that conveys an impression of elegance and a feeling of roominess. The floating screen of the optional eight-inch navigation touch screen on the dashboard integrates all navigation, media and connectivity features and allows drivers to stay always tuned to the traffic ahead thanks to its ergonomic position. The new multifunction three-spoke steering wheel allows easy and intuitive operation of all functions through an ergonomically positioned operation controls and can be heated for enhanced comfort. The climate and temperature control is positioned conveniently in the centre console and can be easily operated through the dials without distracting the driver.

The i30 offers plenty of space for passengers and luggage alike and does not compromise on interior roominess for its sporty exterior design. To enable customers to carry everything they need, the new generation i30 offers generous luggage capacity of up to 395 litres (VDA 211) with a practical two-stage luggage board and a ski hatch in the rear centre seat.

It is powered by a range of small-displacement turbo charged petrol and diesel engines delivering a dynamic and efficient driving experience. There are three petrol engines and one diesel engine. Customers can choose between the new 1.4 T-GDI turbocharged four cylinder engine – a Hyundai first - with 140 PS, the 1.0 T-GDI turbocharged three cylinder engine with 120 PS or the 1.4 MPI four cylinder with 100 PS and one diesel engine: the 1.6-litre turbocharged four-cylinder diesel engine, available with three power outputs: 95, 110 and 133 PS. CO2 emissions starting from as low as 89g CO2/km (target values).

Mated to the engines is either the six-speed manual transmission (6MT) or Hyundai's efficient and direct-responding seven-speed dual-clutch transmission (7DCT).

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Dangerous route but no problem for the Sportage

Taking in the sights at the top of the pass

No problem climbing up 8,000 feet in the Sportage

By Sophie Wright

Since it arrived for test I had only had the chance to be a passenger in the Kia, which was a suitably pleasant experience as far as sitting in a car travelling up and down the UK motorway network goes.

So imagine my delight when I was handed the keys to the Sportage and told to head for Maranello to take part in this year's Bangers4BEN charity rally. It was the same delight I had to try to disguise as the rest of the participants rolled on to the ferry at Dover, knowing that the next 2,000 miles would be in comfort and style.

The Kia had already proven its worth getting the team around on home soil, but when faced with the long, seemingly endless French roads, it really began to excel.

With cruise control selected, the Kia effortlessly ate up the miles. The Sportage proved the ideal car for the journey, big and comfy with a definite premium feel in the cabin and a sat nav that you don't need a degree to operate.

The drive was a little dull, but the Kia was great and must have looked fantastic as several roadside cameras decided to take a picture as we made our way across France, into Switzerland and onwards.

It was day three that really made the Kia stand out. This was the day that I tackled the most beautifully terrifying drive of my life – the Furka Pass. Reaching almost 8,000 feet above sea level, this is the iconic alpine pass from the movie Goldfinger. Equally ranked as one of the best driving roads and most dangerous routes in the world, the Furka Pass was to give the Kia one hell of a challenge.

It was faced with ridiculously steep climbs, hairpin bends and few passing spots, all the while with a very nervous driver behind the wheel. It coped admirably though, unlike the driver.

For a big lump the handling was tight and responsive, the engine and gearbox seamlessly delivering as we powered up into the Alps, and – most importantly – it had very good brakes.

It has to be said that the rest of the rally participants found the drive a bit more Driving Miss Daisy than Goldfinger, but I don't bounce well and with the Swiss approach to a safety barrier sometimes being no more than a kerb, it was all my nerves would take.

In all, an awesome drive where the Kia did us proud – though I'm not sure I returned the favour!

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Sandwell Chronicle Thursday, November 10, 2016

High on the list of affordable SUVs

By John Griffiths

With no signs of a dip in sales of compact SUVs – by far the biggest sector of the new car market – it's a good time for Vauxhall to update its offering to keep it in the race.

The new Mokka X, already one of the more capacious examples of the genre, now comes with a minor facelift, new equipment and, more importantly, two efficient new engines – a 1.4 petrol turbo and Vauxhall's 1.6 litre whisper diesel which does live up to its name.

The test car was powered by the latter unit as used in top models of the much-acclaimed new Astra, with 136PS of power and a hefty 320NM of torque, which endows it with the dual benefits of lively performance and relaxed cruising.

It is indeed a quiet unit: never raucous even under hard acceleration, and virtually silent even at motorway speeds.

Its refinement is matched by its tax efficiency: its 114gm/km CO rating means road tax and benefit in kind tax are kept relatively low.

Official tests put its average fuel consumption at almost 66mpg, but such official figures are rarely (if ever) achieved in the real world so my test figure of 54mpg over a couple of hundred miles of mixed driving might be a reasonable guide.

The test car was in Elite trim and costs £24,415 but the range goes from £17,640 to £26,815, which is very competitive in this sector of the market.

The new Mokka comes with a front end facelift including a new wing-shaped horizontal grille and double wing LED headlights. The back lights are also new, and on the inside the car has a completely new dashboard adapted from the new Astra.

It retains its sporty good looks without compromising on interior space, able to accommodate five adults in comfort plus 356 litres of cargo. Naturally you can fold down the rear seats to increase boot capacity to 1,372 litres.

The seating position is high, for easier access and good visibility, which is one of the big attractions for SUV buyers. The big, sports-style front seats hold you comfortable and secure, and for those in the front seat heaters are standard on this model as was a heated leather steering wheel.

The test car was a front wheel drive version (which the majority of buyers will chose) although there is a 4x4 option. In spite of its height, the Mokka X handles well and corners with little discernible body roll, probably because of rather firm suspension which you do notice over some of our B-roads. The car performs well, and feels particularly relaxed during motorway cruising.

Equipment includes digital radio, Bluetooth, automatic headlights and wipers, electrically heated and folding door mirrors, ABS, stability and traction controls, hill start assist and a tyre pressure monitoring system.

It is also fitted with OnStar, Vauxhall's new system where the touch of a button can put you in touch with a real human operator for help and assistance. If, for instance, you're unlucky enough to have an accident the operator can tell exactly where you are and alert the emergency services.

For those who prefer petrol to diesel, Vauxhall has added the option of a 1.4 direct injection turbo engine from the Astra, This 152PS unit, even with a six-speed automatic transmission and apadtive all wheel drive, is still capable of averaging 43.5mpg and CO2 emissions of 150g/km. It's pretty nifty too, able to tackle the 0 to 62mph dash in 9.4 seconds.

There's a 140PS version of the same engine, providing a little more economy and lower emissions.

Since its launch just four years ago, Vauxhall has sold more than 500,000 Mokkas in Europe – with one in five going to UK buyers.

Its new engines and interior should keep it high up on the list of affordable SUVs, even without the OnStar system which provides a level of assistance and a safety net unusual in cars in this price range.

VAUXHALL MOKKA X

A facelift makes a good package from Vauxhall even more attractive

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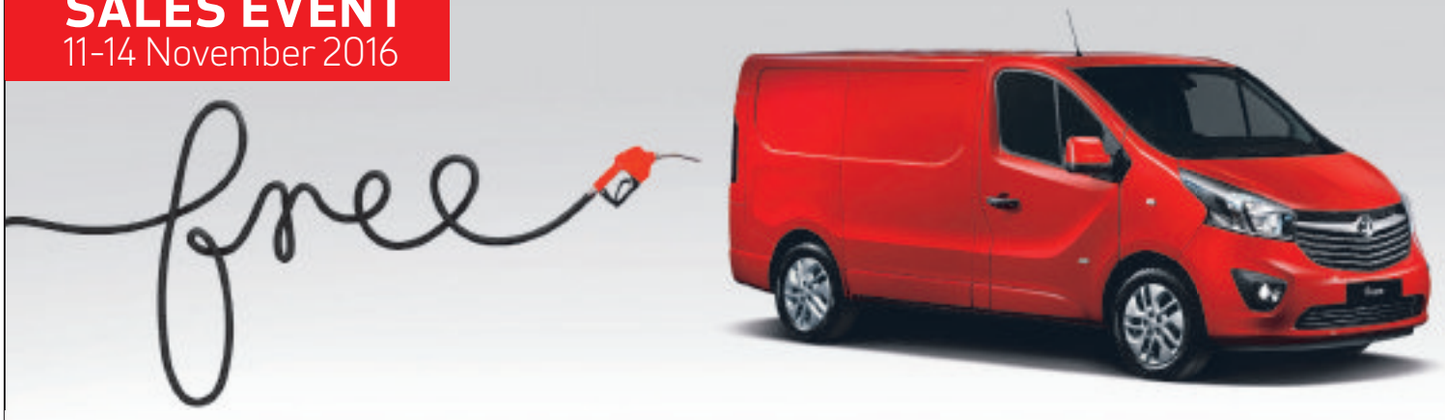

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*Participating Retailers only. £500 Free Fuel offer not available on VIVA, Corsa Sting, Corsa Sting R and Corsa Diamond. Offer not available in conjunction with the Test Drive Allowance. £500 Free Fuel is not given in cash. £500 Free Fuel is inclusive of VAT. Offer available on eligible, selected new vehicle orders from 11-14 November 2016 and registered by 30 November 2016. Offer applies to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 units. All other customers are excluded. Terms, conditions and exclusions apply. Refer to www.vauxhall.co.uk/salesevent or contact your local Retailer for details. #Fuel consumption information is official government environmental data, tested in accordance with the relevant EU directive. Official EU-regulated test data is provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors. Correct at time of going to press.

The u-16 girls were national finalists in April this year

Louie Morris and Reece Jecketts

The u-18s when they became National Outdoor Champions in 2011.

The club's community development officer Jude Hitchens

Lazy days over as club looks to bounce back

CANNOCK Hockey Club have made a series of appointments to lead them back to the top after admitting they got 'lazy'.

Alex Hill has taken over as club captain from Tom Widdowson after the appointment of Gary Stacey as head coach of the men's first-team. The previous National League champions are looking to bounce back from relegation after 27 years in the top division.

Hill, who joined the club as a 12-year-old in 2003, previously coached in the junior section from the Under-11s to the Under-18s.

The club has also announced the appointment of two internationals supporting their under-16 and under-18 squads.

Louie Morris, aged 19, who has played for England under-18s, will continue to lead the under-16s while Callum Stacey, also 19, who has played Wales under-18s last year and is now in the senior squad, will take over the under-18s.

Complacent

Stacey, the son of head coach Gary, is back in the first-team squad after spending a year at National League side Olton and West Warwick gaining valuable experience.

In addition, Jude Hitchens has been appointed as the club's new community club development officer.

Hill admits the club's previous successes made them complacent but says there is a real determination to turn things around.

"Cannock Hockey Club has a fantastic history, having been champions of the National League and leading competitors across junior age group competitions for many years," he said.

"Sadly in recent years people have sat on this past success. We've been lazy. Our junior section needs rebuilding and our club is in need of real inspiration.

SPORTING FEATURE

By Tim Nash

"Losing our place in the national premier after 27 years last season was horrible for all that care about Cannock."

"The current membership, including the first team and juniors, must create its own history and this time create a legacy that will last for decades.

"Losing our place in the national premier after 27 years last season was horrible for all that care about Cannock.

"However, it has given us time to reflect, and we have a new ethos at Cannock this year which is 'every member matters'.

"We want to be successful at first-team level but we want everyone at our club to feel cared for," he added.

"The appointment of Gary and now Jude will be crucial if we are to succeed with this.

"They both know the club inside out and most importantly they care about our club.

"I'm so excited about this season, I think it will be a real turning point in our future."

As regards his new role, Hill said: "My job is to oversee selection, review and develop the coaching team, support parents and help improve hockey across the club with the support of the newly-appointed coaches."

The new ethos is reflected by Cannock boasting training sessions suitable for all levels from ages of eight to 80.

Hitchens, who has played for Cannock Ladies for three decades, will take responsibility of developing the membership and promoting the sport in the community.

This will include developing links with both primary and secondary schools as well as launching a new back-2-hockey scheme. Cannock already has a satellite club set-up at Erasmus Darwin School in Chasetown and will look to set up competitions between local schools at their Chase Park base.

"I'm so happy to be playing such a key role at the club I love," said Hitchens.

"Cannock is the best hockey club in the Midlands, with its facilities, quality of its provision and success on the pitch.

"I can't wait to get started and spread the Cannock message."

Merging

The club also welcomes Chris Beck, who will working on social media coverage across all levels of the club.

Meanwhile, Cannock hockey club's junior section is merging with the ladies section for all members under 14.

This will mean all under-14s will train on the same evening and will also allow them to share resources and expertise.

Hill will oversee the development of both the players and coaches at under-16s and under-18s levels, creating a clearer pathway to Stacey and the first-team squad.

Cannock are seeking nine matchday sponsors as well as a main sponsor to appear on the first-team kit for next season.

Anyone interested should contact joint chairman Ian Gardner via igardner.uk@gmail.com

Cannock Boys under-18s National Indoor Champions 2015

Children as young as under-12 are integrated into the Cannock Hockey Club set up

Put shirt on club bouncing back from complacency

Page 51

Zaber goes for gold in title attempt

MANNY Zaber will have to overcome the worldly wise Josh Baillie to get his hands on his first professional title next weekend. Zaber has been paired with Baillie to contest the vacant British Challenge super featherweight crown.

The two will go toe-to-toe in an eight-rounder at Walsall Town Hall on Saturday November 19, on Errol Johnson's Black Country Boxing show titled 'Going For Gold.'

Undefeated Zaber has eight paid victories under his belt without reply, but is still awaiting his first inside-the-distance. The 21-year-old was also nominated for the Best Newcomer award at the British Boxing Board of Control Midlands area's annual awards.

'Pac Man' will come across a game adversary in Baillie who, despite only taking part in seven pro contests, has boxed far and wide.

'The Boss' travelled to Australia for his first three fights, winning two with a debut TKO. Only future national champion Miles Zalewski got the better of him, on points. Baillie then went to China to take on Can Xu, losing narrowly on points.

The 31-year-old was born in Barrow-on-Furness but lives in Tamworth.

Five support contests will support the main event, with Walsall's Martin Gethin and Zach Parker featuring in six-rounders.

Wolverhampton's Josh Burke will be looking to move into position for the vacant Midlands cruiserweight title in a four rounder against Aaron Green.

Chasetown's Luke Jones is targeting a hat-trick of pro wins with his first Town Hall appearance. West Bromwich's Thomas Loach is waiting to be paired for his second outing.

Tickets are £30 and £60 ringside, on sale on 0845 111 2900.

'Yozza' has Wade to face on darts Grand Slam debut

TIPTON'S Jamie Hughes will have PDC heavyweights James Wade and Dave Chisnall in his group for the Grand Slam of Darts. Hughes is the only Black Country player involved when the eight-day tournament begins at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Saturday afternoon. James Wilson completes the group.

Holder, PDC No 1 Michael van Gerwen, is in Group A with Brendan Dolan, Max Hopp and the BDO's Martin Adams. Six-time winner Phil Taylor is in Group D with Ian White, Darren Webster and the BDO's Darryl Fitton. Raymond van Barneveld, Mensur Suljovic, Nathan Aspinall and the BDO's Danny Noppert are in Group F.

Reigning BDO world champion Scott Waites, is in Group B with Robert Thornton, Gerwyn Price and Dmitri van den Burgh. PDC world champ Gary Anderson makes up Group E with Alan Norris, Nathan Derry and Glen Durrant.

Peter Wright will play Simon Whitlock, Ted Evitts and the BDO's Jeff Smith in Group C. Group H comprises Adrian Lewis, Benito van de Pas, Chris Dobey and the BDO's Scott Mitchell.

Summers sets sights on next bout

Boxing

TIPTON'S Ricky Summers returned to action in style with a TKO win after exactly seven months out and already has his next ring date.

Summers headlined the last time professional boxing was staged at the Venue in Dudley on March 4 and again took top billing under the same lights last weekend, writes Craig Birch.

'Digger' blew away the rust with a third round stoppage of Chris Dixon, who still had one minute and five seconds left to last of the session.

The unbeaten light heavyweight kept up his flawless record of 12 wins from 12, scoring his fifth inside-the-distance. He will now prepare to fight again on December 4. PJ Promotions are putting on their next show at the Venue, a 'Crunchtime at Lunchtime' Sunday afternoon show. Summers is likely to take on Kelvin Young in another six-rounder.

Netherton's Les Byfield, Rowley Regis' Tyler Denny and Birmingham's Kane Baker are all set to feature after winning on Friday night, as will Lichfield's Brad Foster.

Byfield eased to a four-round points landslide over Ricky Leach, who had little time to warm up after arriving late due to traffic on the motorway.

Denny was elated after snapping a run of two draws in a row at middleweight. He had his hand raised, at last, after beating Robert Studzinski.

Baker, from Bartley Green, took on the most experienced active professional in the country, Kristian Laight, competing in his 252nd paid contest.

Fight of the night went to Telford's Tony Jones, with manager Kellie Maloney looking on, as he saw off Ross Jameson at super lightweight.

CJ Challenger, 22, opened the show with the promising welterweight from Leicester defeating Czech Michal Voyska emphatically on points.

BAGGIES END POWER SURGE

Leicester City 1 Albion 2

IT had been more than a year since Leicester had lost a Premier League game at the King Power Stadium, when they were stunned 5-2 by Arsenal on September 26.

Twenty-one games later and it was the Baggies who stunned the champions in Leicester, ending the impressive run that took Claudio Ranieri's team to the title last season.

Albion had only managed to score more than one goal in one of their last 20 league games, but they had bagged two in each of their last three meetings with the Foxes, so perhaps it was inevitable they were going to score two here, *writes Matt Wilson*.

If it was, then it was a timely intervention of fate. Before kick-off the Baggies were teetering above the bottom three on goal-difference alone, but these three points shoot them up to 11th place with inviting fixtures against Burnley and Hull to come after the international break.

Deft

James Morrison was given his first Premier League start of the season, and not only did he open the scoring with a deft header from a Phillips cross, he gave Albion some much-needed composure on the ball in the opposition's half.

He wasn't the only midfielder who impressed. Phillips made his intentions clear early on with a rasping low drive that Ron-Robert Zieler, standing in for the injured Kasper Schmeichel, did well to fingertip around the post.

Albion shaded the first half and had the best opportunities, so when they took the lead through Morrison's header after the break it was well deserved. But that lead lasted just three minutes and after Islam Slimani's equaliser Leicester started to threaten.

But Albion soon wrestled back control. The Foxes were not at their best, and were making too many mistakes in midfield.

The most costly came when Danny Drinkwater miscued his backpass, allowing Phillips to run on to the ball and bear down on Zieler one-on-one.

James Morrison, second from left, celebrates with team mates after scoring his side's first goal

Brummies pack them in at presentation

BIRMINGHAM Brummies boss Graham Drury described the club's end of season Presentation as a resounding success.

Around 200 supporters joined riders, mechanics and their families in Great Barr to look back on an unforgettable season for the Surestop Brummies.

Said Drury: "Having the lads together with everyone who's been involved for one last night was a brilliant way to finish our season off.

"It's going to be tough cutting this team apart in the winter – but I'll be putting a side together capable of making it three league titles on the trot!"

- Supporters' Club Rider of the Year - The 2016 Birmingham Brummies!
- Promotion's Rider of the Year Award - Jack Smith
- Ductair Electrics Ltd Rider of the Season Award (based on No. of Rider of the Night awards) - Jack Smith
- Graham Warren Trophy (as voted for by a select supporters' committee) - Danyon Hume
- Most Improved Average - Jack Parkinson-Blackburn
- Most Bonus Points Award - Jack Parkinson-Blackburn
- Fastest Brummie (59.91 v King's Lynn) - Jack Parkinson-Blackburn

Visitors have edge in game of two halves

Wednesbury 19 Rugeley 31

THIS was the first league game between these two teams for a number of years – and it was a typical game of two halves.

The first half definitely belonged to the visitors and the second to Wednesbury, although the winning margin did not reflect how close the game was.

The game started well for Wednesbury they took the lead after only four minutes with an Alex Love try, converted by Dan Till.

The lead only lasted a few minutes as Rugeley touched down.

Wednesbury's pack had the advantage in the scrum but lost out in the lineout, this gave Rugeley the opportunity to use the backs running in another two converted tries.

The home side tried to rally with Ben Baker on the wing using his speed to try and break through the Rugeley defence, but Rugeley held firm for a 19-7 half-time lead.

Whatever coach Gary Summers said to his side worked as Wednesbury came out all guns blazing playing like a different side, not allowing the visitors any possession.

As the second half wore on Wednesbury became more and more dominant but were unable to break the Rugeley defence, until the pack drove into the visitors' 22, Chris Handley received the ball and drove over the line for a try. Dan Till added the conversion.

Within five minutes Wednesbury were on the score sheet again thanks to a mazy run from winger Ben Baker, no conversion. With five minutes left Wednesbury took their eyes off the ball, allowing Rugeley the chance to wrestle back control of the game, running in a further two converted tries.

Wednesdury 2nds lost away at Chaddesley Corbbet 2nds by 30-8.

Late Cartwright goal secures the double

Tipton Town 2 Bustleholme 1

A LATE strike from Mark Cartwright saw Tipton Town complete a West Midlands League Division One double over Bustleholme.

Cartwright struck six minutes from time to settle a keenly-contested clash 2-1 in Tipton's favour.

Tipton made most of the first-half running and deservedly took the lead when Chris Horton forced the ball home from close range on 39 minutes.

Bustleholme tied up the scores on 72 minutes when Chris Brown found the net after great approach work by Rohan Spencer.

★★★

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THE SENSATIONAL 60S EXPERIENCE

TUE 31 JAN – SAT 4 FEB
BUDDY – THE BUDDY HOLLY STORY

SUN 5 – TUE 7 FEB
THE RUSSIAN STATE BALLET OF SIBERIA
THE NUTCRACKER SWAN LAKE COPPÉLIA

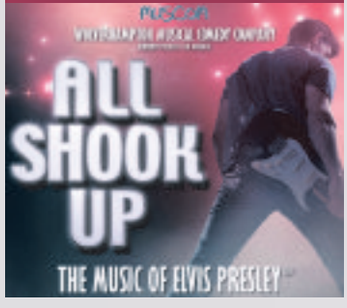
SUN 12 FEB
CHINESE NEW YEAR EXTRAVAGANZA

TUE 14 – SAT 18 FEB
ANITA AND ME
BY MEERA SYAL.
ADAPTED BY TANIKA GUPTA

TUE 21 – SAT 25 FEB
THRILLER LIVE

MON 27 FEB – SAT 4 MAR
SISTER ACT

TUE 14 – SAT 18 MAR
MUSCOM PRESENT
ALL SHOOK UP



WED 22 – SUN 26 MAR
DAVID WALLIAMS
GANGSTA GRANNY
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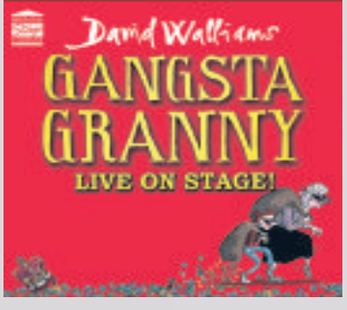

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MON 3 – SAT 8 APR
THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG

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PASHA KOVALEV
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WBOS PRESENT
ROCK OF AGES

SUN 30 APR

THE SOLID SILVER 60s SHOW

TUE 2 – SAT 6 MAY

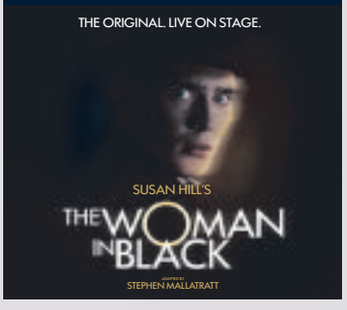
THE VERDICT

SAT 20 MAY

AN EVENING WITH BOYCOTT & AGGERS

MON 22 – SAT 27 MAY

THE WOMAN IN BLACK



TUES 30 – WED 31 MAY

THE BOY IN THE STRIPED PYJAMAS

WED 31 MAY

GOLDILOCKS & THE THREE BEARS

TUE 6 – SAT 10 JUNE

CHILDREN'S TOURING PARTNERSHIP PRESENTS
RUNNING WILD

THU 22 – SAT 24 JUN

ALL OR NOTHING

TUE 27 JUN – SAT 1 JUL

LA CAGE AUX FOLLES

MON 3 – SAT 8 JULY

RUTH RENDELL'S A JUDGEMENT IN STONE

TUE 15 AUG – SAT 9 SEPT

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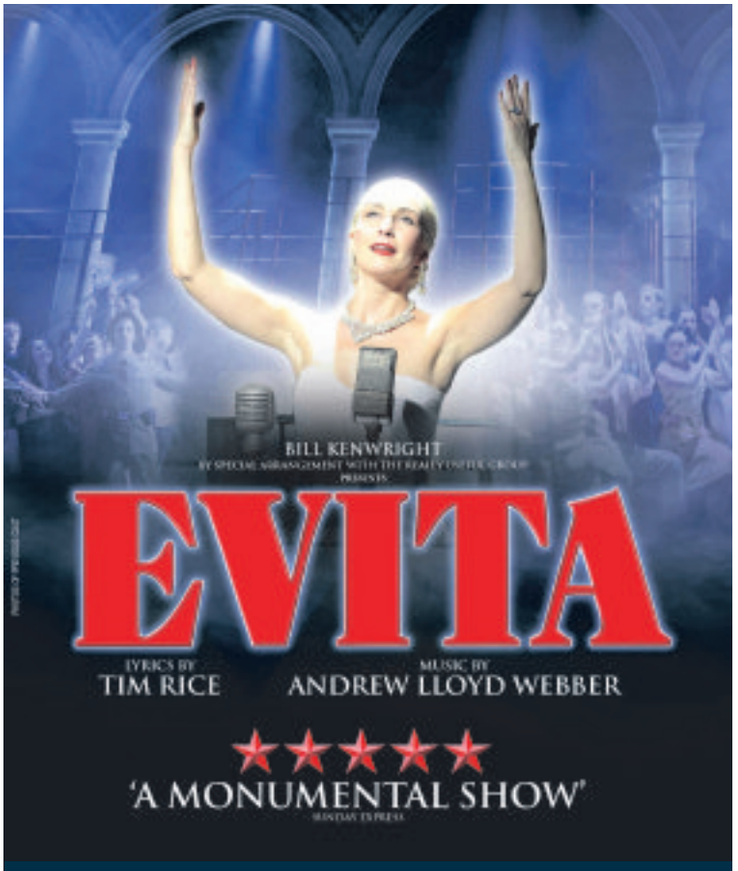
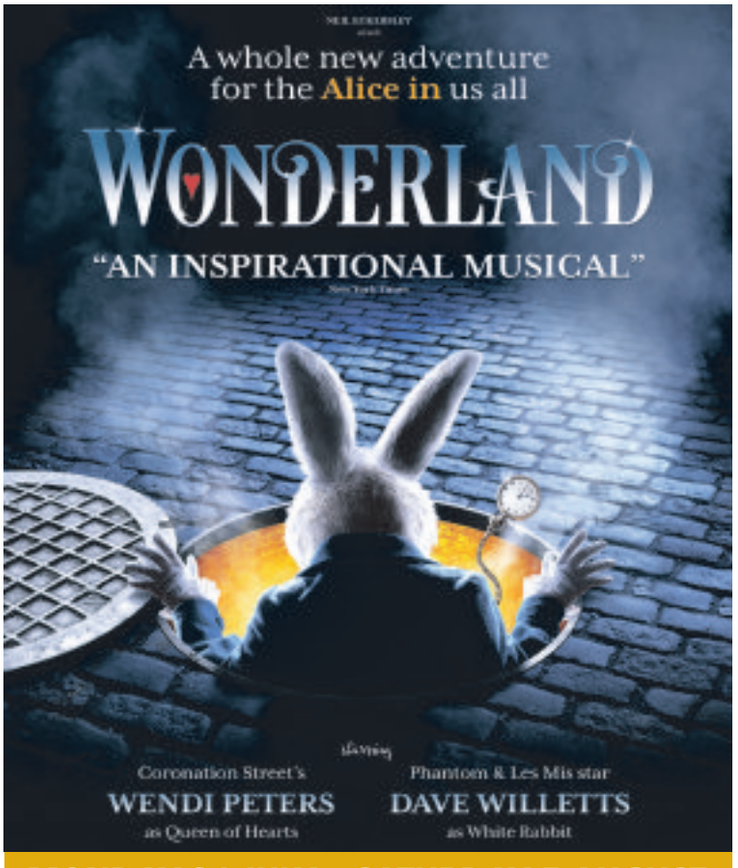


TUESDAY 9 – SATURDAY 13 MAY

MONDAY 24 – SATURDAY 29 JULY



MONDAY 31 JULY – SATURDAY 5 AUGUST